



Thursday, May 28, 2015

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Council now faces picking up bill for developer's costs

CHILDREN'S HOME APPEAL VICTORY

Report by Andrew Turton

A CARE home will be created on the site of a former social club in Amblecote after developers won an appeal against a Dudley Council decision.

The council now faces having to pay costs to the developer that could run into five figures after the Planning Inspectorate overturned its decision.

Bain's Builders Ltd was building two four-bedroom homes on the site of the old Stourbridge War Memorial Club, on Amblecote High Street.

But the developer submitted plans to instead transform the site near to the War Memorial Athletic Ground — home to Stourbridge football and cricket teams — into two residential care homes designed for children.

Bain's Builders Ltd have returned to planning officers in a bid to secure permission for two two-storey buildings with eight en-suite bedroom homes for children aged six to 16.

Dudley Council's planning committee had refused the care home scheme. That decision came amid concerns over the busy road, potential noise and disturbance from the neighbouring sports ground.

There has been strong opposition to the scheme with Stourbridge FC chairman Andy Pountney among those to voice concerns. These included the proximity to turnstiles and the impact of floodlights.

Agreed

But the Planning Inspector said these concerns had already been mitigated when Dudley Council agreed the earlier planning permission in 2013 for the houses to be built.

Developer Surinder Bains is delighted, he said: "I'm pleased that the plans can now progress. We can't understand why the committee refused it in the first place."

"They went against the recommendations of the qualified planning officers to refuse it."

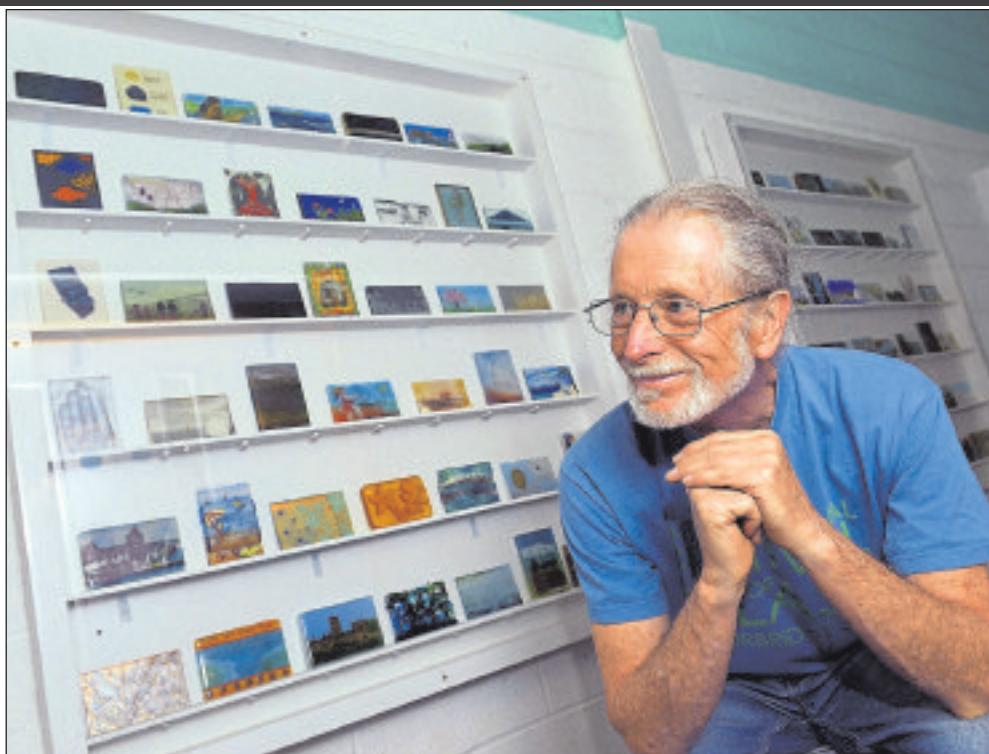
"We can now get on with it. But it has delayed us."

Councillor Qadar Zada, chairman of Dudley's development control committee, said the council was disappointed by the inspector's decision but would abide by the ruling.

He explained: "The decision of the committee was made by local councillors, representing the concerns of local people, so we are naturally disappointed by the decision of the inspectorate in Bristol. However, we accept their findings and will now liaise with the applicant in relation to any costs incurred."

Building work on the site is expected to be completed this summer.

GLASS POSTCARDS GO ON DISPLAY AT FESTIVAL



International Festival of Glass founder Keith Brocklehurst with the colourful postcards at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston Road, Stourbridge DELICATE pieces of art have been brought together to form a giant glass wall to welcome visitors to this week's International Festival of Glass in Stourbridge.

having been delicately crafted by members of the Contemporary Glass Society.

The group, which is known for coming up with unusual exhibitions, settled on the postcard for this year's festival. Project leaders said they wanted to celebrate the postcard's simplicity and the fact they can 'say so much with so little'.

Victoria Scholes, a former chairman of the group, said: "This deceptively simple form of communication is more than just words and pictures. It delivers a glimpse of another life, a renewed friendship, a shared joke with a specially chosen image that all say so much with so little."

The society previously wowed art enthusiasts with a series of Olympic medallions to mark the London 2012 Games and are hoping to impress again in Stourbridge.

● Crystal bust — see page 3

THEATRE

Crunch meeting on future of Hippodrome

THE future of Dudley Hippodrome will be discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the council in July.

Proposals for an £8 million restoration of the venue have been left in tatters following the collapse of talks when The Rok Group, led by Wolverhampton businessman Jonathan Kendrick, withdrew its bid in April. Bosses say the deal broke down over the car park also serving Dudley Zoo and costs of removing asbestos.

Dudley UKIP group have called a meeting at Dudley Council House on July 20.

HOUSING

Canalside homes given green light

SIXTY homes will be built as part of a new canalside development in Tividale after plans were approved.

Sandwell Council has given the scheme earmarked for a site known as Rattlesnake Chain open space the go-ahead.

The development, alongside the Gower Branch Canal, will include 22 four-bedroom properties and 30 three and two bedroom homes.

There will also be eight affordable homes built.

CANAL

Swing bridge bid to link heritage sites

A PLAN for a swing bridge over a canal to link two of Dudley's tourist attractions as part of a £3 million development has been lodged with Dudley Council.

Dudley Canal Trust has submitted plans for the bridge by its Todds End entrance. It would enable visitors from the Black Country Living Museum, to access the ticket office, boats and the planned new heritage centre, The Portal.

Work is due to get under way soon on the two-storey base which will be used to tell thousands of visitors to the site about the Black Country's industrial past with emphasis on its canal heritage.

INSIDE

Lenny looking back at the 70s



PAGE 6

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Public rallying around Legion branch

IT WAS a devastating raid on a Royal British Legion club in Dudley which even put the venue's future at risk. But now it has now bounced back thanks to overwhelming support from the community.

More than £3,000 has been raised for Kingswinford's Royal British Legion club in the wake of the shocking burglary.

Raiders stole £2,500, smashed gaming machines and caused £5,000 worth of damage in the attack on the club at the end of March.

Now club members say they have

been 'overwhelmed' by support from the public with around £3,000 in donations and support.

Members thanked people for their generous support as they hosted a fundraising walk weeks after the devastating burglary. Dozens of people turned out on Bank Holiday Monday to hold a fundraising walk to bring in vital cash to help the club and for the annual Poppy Appeal.

People began contacting Legion members asking for ways they could help after burglars wreaked havoc inside the branch headquarters in

Summerhill. The idea of the walk was established with other community groups, including the Air Training Corp and Army Cadets, among those taking part.

Group members lined up outside the club on Monday morning before setting off for the 25-mile walk around Kingswinford with stops at clubs in Swindon and Kinver.

Club treasurer Bob Townsend said: "The club has bounced back so well after the burglary. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of support we have had. Something very,

very positive came out of this because we have become more of a part of the community and people know more about us now."

Royal British Legion members feared they would be unable to continue to run the club if they could not boost security at the 65-year-old site. But since then two security firms — GCG and D&M Electricals — generously donated a CCTV system and installation free of charge.

Cash raised from the walk will be split between the Poppy Appeal and security measures at the club.

£200k security costs at abandoned school

MORE than £200,000 has been spent on security at the former Pensnett High School since it controversially shut its doors.

The school in Tiled House Lane closed in August 2010 due to falling pupil numbers and poor exam results despite a campaign by parents.

Although some pupils in Years 9 and 10 stayed on at a learning centre on the site until June 2012, most of the site has remained empty.

Dudley Council stepped up security at the site and so far a total of £218,587 has been spent. It comes after plans for a £1.6 million education centre for young people with learning difficulties were approved for the site with work now under way.

The school shut after it emerged the 11 per cent GCSE pass rate was well below the national 30 per cent target rate and at the time council education officers said it as 'failing' pupils.

Parents battled in vain to save it from closure, saying they didn't want their children's education disrupted.

Lewis Bourne, the council's Freedom of Information officer, said: "A public right of way bounds the perimeter of the site passing between the former school fields and green open space used by the public.

Recognised

"Whilst the site remained open for community use with the existence of a recently built sports hall, sports fields and a Neighbourhood Learning Centre, it was recognised that security would be required following the de-commissioning of those buildings not in use."

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "The staffed security in place at the former Pensnett site was essential as the site was still partially in use for adult learning courses and the community sports hall following the closure of the full school.

"The security helped ensure the site has not had any significant issue with criminal activity or vandalism."

Mr Bourne added: "A project is underway for the redevelopment and refurbishment of some of the buildings for educational purposes and the Sports Hall and associated playing fields will remain."

Pens Meadow Special School will run the centre for young people aged 16 and over.

Time for afternoon tea at the hall



Councillor Khurshid Ahmed samples afternoon tea at Himley Hall with managers Tracey Reece and Lisa Guest

VISITORS will be able to enjoy afternoon tea in the footsteps of the royals for the first time at Himley Hall and Park.

For the summer months, the landmark venue on the Dudley-South Staffordshire is offering a new menu of 'two-bite' cakes, ribbon sandwiches and warm scones.

People will be able to dine in one of the grand rooms, before taking a stroll through the grounds designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member elect responsible for halls, said: "I'm sure the idea of afternoon tea at one of the most stunning settings for miles will appeal to a lot of people."

"It's just one of many things you can do at Himley Hall over the summer months."

Afternoon tea will be available at the hall, which was once where royal newly-weds spent their honeymoon and princes and earls were regular visitors, from June and

throughout the summer. Sandwiches on offer include Wiltshire ham and tomato, free range egg and mayonnaise and mature cheddar cheese and farmhouse chutney.

Warm scones are served with strawberry conserve and thick fresh cream.

The cakes on the menu include Belgian brownies and white chocolate and raspberry cheesecake slices.

Call Himley Hall on (01384) 817817. Prices start from £17.95.

Town facing protest as traders told to stay open

PROTESTERS planning to march in Dudley against a new mosque have been urged to respect residents' rights to live in harmony.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Dudley is a diverse borough, in which people from different backgrounds and cultures get on and work together well.

"In our region we respect the values of each other and the right that we all have to worship freely in whichever way we chose."

The right to peacefully protest will be protected but we expect everybody who splits the area to respect local people and their right live in harmony."

His comments come as a group calling itself All Football Fans/Firms Against Islamisation (AFFFAI) announced plans to march in the town on June 13.

It will be the third such protest in the town since February, following demonstrations by the English Defence League and Britain First.

Mr Jamieson said: "Dudley is used to seeing protests and the police are used to dealing with these operations in a professional and calm manner."

Traders are concerned that they will lose trade because of another protest, again on a Saturday.

But AFFFAI event host Kevin Smith said traders should open as normal on the day. He added: "If the future of their country means less than two hours of trading then we can clearly see where the problems we face today are coming from."

Maths challenge for youngsters

STUDENTS are preparing for an ultimate maths challenge next month.

Young maths stars from across Dudley will be competing to be crowned winner at the Primary Dudley Inter School Mathematics Championship on Wednesday, June 3.

Sixty primary school pupils will be fighting it out in two age categories – seven to nine and nine to 11.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walther will be presenting the prizes which have been donated by local businesses.

Prizes include 12 family match tickets to Stourbridge Football Club, vouchers for Merry Hill shopping centre and Tesco, maths equipment from Helix and trophies donated by Waitrose Stourbridge and Dudley Council.

Beer lovers will hold AGM at pub

STOURBRIDGE and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is holding its annual general meeting in an upstairs room at The Duke William pub in Coventry Street, Stourbridge. The meeting is on Wednesday, June 3 at 8pm, and open to all CAMRA members.

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New MP is giving his council pay to charity

A NEWLY-ELECTED MP has revealed he intends to hand over to charities almost all of the £10,000 he gets from his other role as a councillor.

Mike Wood, who held Dudley South for the Conservatives at the General Election, is also a councillor representing Pedmore and Stourbridge East.

But the 39-year-old said he would not be standing down as a councillor straight away as he wants to try to avoid a costly by-election taking place in the summer, when turnout is typically very low.

Instead the father-of-two is going to attempt to stay on as a councillor until the local elections next May but will be donating his £9,600 a year council allowances to worthy causes.

He has left himself the option of standing down earlier if he is not able to get to as many council meetings as he hopes to.

Mr Wood, said: "I intend to continue as a Dudley councillor until next May but, from next month, I shall be dividing my Council allowances between local charities.

"Because the Government's majority is so narrow, I probably won't be able to get to as many council meetings as I might have wished and so it may be that I do need to stand down earlier. I will speak to the leader of the council and to other members of the council, and assuming there is no groundswell of public demand, then I will continue until next May's local elections."

Woman, 22, was attacked in alley

TWO men attacked a woman in broad daylight in Dudley town centre.

The 22-year-old was pushed to the ground in an alleyway between Love Lane and High Street. She was then held down by one of the men as the other tried to steal her phone. When a passer-by entered the alley on hearing the woman's screams, the attackers fled empty-handed. The attack took place at 9.05am on May 11.

Acting Detective Sergeant Nick Slym, from Dudley Police, said: "We believe one of the offenders was a black man, wearing tracksuit bottoms and distinctive light or sky blue Nike Air Max trainers. Unfortunately there is no description of the other man."

Call police 101 or call Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555 111.

Meet the brewer at beer festival

A STOURBRIDGE town centre pub is holding a mini beer festival featuring ales from the Warwickshire Beer Company based in Leamington Spa, from Monday with a meet the brewer event that night at 7pm.

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Health service plans revealed

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To book a place at the meeting call Clare Hamilton on (01384) 321764.

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Customers can choose from items including mugs, T-shirts and chopping boards, which can be personalised.

Speeding crackdown

PEOPLE have been complaining about the number of motorists speeding along a road in Halesowen and now police plan a crackdown on speeders.

Officers will be conducting speed checks along Rosemary Road, off Hagley Road, in Hayley Green, during the coming weeks.

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Students taking their talents to market

STUDENTS will be manning a weekly store at Dudley Market in a bid to boost sales for their gift enterprise.

The students from the town's college are part of the Aspire training scheme giving special needs students hands-on experience. They will take orders from market visitors each Tuesday and then dispatch products from their print works on the campus.

Customers can choose from items including mugs, T-shirts and chopping boards, which can be personalised.

Speeding crackdown

PEOPLE have been complaining about the number of motorists speeding along a road in Halesowen and now police plan a crackdown on speeders.

Officers will be conducting speed checks along Rosemary Road, off Hagley Road, in Hayley Green, during the coming weeks.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wildlife meadow to officially open

A WILDLIFE meadow will be officially opened at Ashwood Nurseries near Wall Heath on Saturday.

It will take place during a charity open day at owner John Massy's garden at the nursery and garden centre, which runs from 10am to 4pm.



I'm not surprised the Prince of Wales's handshake with Gerry Adams lasted 12 seconds. I once shook hands with Adams and it did go on a bit. He has an excellent dry, warm, firm handshake and his eye-contact, smile, demeanour and body-language all say: "Trust me." I didn't.

RESEARCH by Microsoft suggests that the average attention span of humans is getting shorter. It has fallen from 12 seconds in 2000 to, wow, look at that cloud!

FIRST cuckoo of the year (at last) but there's a distinct shortage of baby bunnies in the fields around Chateau Rhodes. The local falconer says it's because the biggest rabbit warren has been taken over by that elusive creature, a polecat. I have only ever seen one alive and a couple dead at the roadside. If you've never seen a polecat, there's some excellent BBC footage of wildlife cameraman and national treasure Simon King filming two at once at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/European-Polecat#p007x1g>

FROM all the headlines about new Culture Secretary John Whittingdale taking on the BBC, you might assume the future of the TV licence can be measured in days – well, weeks, maybe? Dream on. No change is expected before 2026. Meanwhile, we discover the long-awaited inquiry into alleged child abuse in the Establishment could drag on for eight years. Over the water, the convicted Boston bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's appeal against the death penalty could last 18 years. If you want a process to go on forever, bring on the suits. What we need is a thorough, international inquiry into why things take so long these days. It would require a chairman on a



Stage is set for new performing arts HQ

By Andrew Turton

HALESOWEN College has been given the all clear to begin work on a £3 million performing arts centre after plans were finally approved.

The college has faced a battle to gain support for the facility and had to withdraw initial plans for a glass corridor and display space after concerns were raised by fire chiefs.

After being amended, the application gained the unanimous backing of Dudley Council's planning committee this week.

The two-storey centre will become the town's own 'Fame academy' with teaching and rehearsal rooms for students on music, drama and dance courses.

The Whittingham Road college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students on performing arts courses. Some have to travel off campus to use Benjamins, a function hall in the town centre.

The new complex was due to be connected to other buildings at the Whittingham Road site by a glass walkway, which the college had hoped to use as an exhibition space and break area for students. But fire officers said the link way would be the main escape route for the block in an emergency so it would need to be left clear, halting the college's original plans.

Backlash

Councillors agreed the amended plans were now suitable but not everyone is pleased with the impending arrival of the new facility.

College leaders have had to contend with a backlash from dozens living near the site who feared it will exacerbate problems on surrounding roads already clogged with parked cars.

Halesowen councillor Karen Shakespeare said she was pleased the college had finally secured permission but admitted problems with parking needed to be looked at.

huge salary who, before the inquiry starts, is found to have loads of skeletons in his cupboard and has to be replaced. And lawyers, of course. Lots and lots of lawyers on enormous salaries with a vested interest in never reaching a solution.

With care, the worldwide inquiry into why things take so long would last for ever.

WHEN the new series of Benefits Street (C4) was announced, it was condemned as "poverty porn." In fact, it is pure tragedy, an unbearably sad tale of wasted lives, feckless males and desperate, prematurely aged women. Since it was filmed, drug dealer Neil Maxwell has been jailed for a double stabbing and poor Reagan, Julian Young's profoundly disabled son, has died. Yet the title is misleading. The villain of this nightmare is not the benefits system but a community awash with drugs and terrorised by the crime that drug addiction breeds. If you still believe the "war on drugs" can ever be won, watch this and think again.

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Third city joins combined authority

MOVES for a West Midlands Combined Authority joining Birmingham with the Black Country have been boosted after Coventry councillors said they would sign up.

It means the combined authority would be the largest in the country and the only one to have three cities – Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton. It would be given devolved powers on areas like transport

and regeneration. Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley are also signed up.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper said it also put to bed any suggestion of the authority being called Greater Birmingham.

Power

Councillor Cooper, who has been leading the Black Country's negotiations on the deal, added: "With three

cities there's no way anyone would now accept it being a Greater Birmingham."

"What this gives us is fantastic bargaining power. We are much stronger together and we can pool our resources to get the best possible deal from the government."

"Greater Manchester has taken the lead already. We can't afford to be left behind."

Chancellor George Osborne wants the authority to have an elected region-wide 'metro mayor'.

David Cameron said last week that there is no 'one size fits all' arrangement and that the door was open to councils to come up with their own.

It is expected that Solihull will also join the authority while an approach has been made to district councils in Warwickshire too.

Foster care in focus as fortnight is launched

PEOPLE interested in becoming a foster carer are invited to a series of drop-in information sessions starting next week.

These will be run by Dudley Council and take place every Friday at Flipside House in Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

They will begin on June 5 and people can pop along anytime between 1pm and 4pm.

The 'Fostering Friday' sessions are launching as part Foster Care Fortnight which runs from June 1 to 14.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "Lots of people think about fostering but maybe aren't sure if their circumstances fit what we're looking for."

"That's why these sessions are so important."

"We want people who are interested in fostering to drop in and find out more about the best job in the world."

Eligibility

"The fostering team can also tell them about eligibility, the different types of foster care and answer any other questions they may have."

He added: "No one has to make a commitment when they attend, we'd just really like to hear from people who think they can offer a great home to the borough's looked-after children."

People can find out more about the drop-in sessions and other matters regarding to fostering by emailing fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk or calling the service on (01384) 815833.

Love is in the air again at the zoo

LOVE is in the air at Dudley Zoo after 10 lovebirds arrived as part of a breeding programme.

The black-cheeked lovebirds — Africa's most endangered parrots — were transferred from Drusillas Park in East Sussex to join five already at Dudley.

Senior bird keeper Ben Vanes said: "Our expanded group of lovebirds are settling into their large aviary and are all getting along very well."

"They were all mingling within the space of 10 minutes so I'm sure we'll see some courting behaviour before too long."

The zoo has successfully bred this species before and some of its surplus birds in the past have been transferred to other collections to boost conservation programmes.

Garden open day is to raise funds for hospice

A GARDEN open day will raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice at 20 Waxland Road, Halesowen, from 1pm until 5pm on June 7.

Entry is £3 and there will be refreshments, a raffle and plants for sale.

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Community projects by council on award list

THREE community projects, including the Black Country Festival, are in line for national awards.

Dudley Council's online community forums and Sunday opening for traders in Dudley in the wake of the English Defence League's visit in February have also been shortlisted in the UK Public Sector Communication Awards 2015. The projects caught the judges' attention for the way the council communicated with the public, said council leader Pete Lowe.

"I'm delighted that we have again been recognised nationally for the way we do things in Dudley," he added. "We pride ourselves on the way we communicate with people and get them involved in important initiatives such as these."

It could be an award double for the Black Country Festival after picking up the prestigious PR Moments award in March. The first festival to celebrate Black Country Day in July last year saw thousands of people take part in a variety of community events across Dudley borough.

The online community forums aim to give people the chance to have their say on local issues from the comfort of their own home via social media. The hour-long sessions on Facebook attract thousands and provide an alternative to attending meetings.

Scores of shops in Dudley town centre opened up on Sunday, February 15 for an extra day's trade, after many closed their doors during a Saturday town centre protest by the EDL.

Winners will be announced in July.

Party over as man hit with hefty bill

A HOUSE party left a 21-year-old man with an £800 bill. Jordan Marks was brought before magistrates after failing to ensure those he had paid to dispose of rubbish did so legally.

Marks, of Wolverhampton Road, Kingswinford, paid someone £10 to remove five bags of rubbish leftover from a party. It was dumped in Greensforge Lane, Kinver.

An investigation by South Staffs council led to the defendant after they found a letter addressed to him amongst the rubbish.

He pleaded guilty to an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court. He was fined £35 but was also ordered to pay costs of £770 for clearing up the rubbish.

Summer concert for Coseley choir

COSELEY Male Voice Choir will be presenting a summer evening of music at St Andrew's Church in Bilston Street, Sedgley, next Saturday, June 6, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £6, call 0121 520 0739.

Former chapel could sell for £100k



For sale — Cradley Forge Chapel

A CHAPEL which closed last year after more than eight decades of service has been put up for sale.

Bidders are being sought to take over the Cradley Forge Methodist Chapel in Quarry Bank, which has an asking price of £100,000.

The premises in Hammer Bank opened in 1924 but closed at Easter last year.

Property firm Rightmove said the building, which is listed as a heritage asset, is in need of a major refurbishment.

The future of the site is uncertain,

with Rightmove saying the building is suitable for a number of uses but is likely to be converted rather than demolished.

Quarry Bank's Councillor David Sparks said it was important the new buyers don't make too many changes to the building.

He said: "This chapel is part of the rich tapestry that makes up the community of the Black Country and I hope that whoever buys it is able to maintain that heritage."

"There have been lots of examples elsewhere in the country where chap-

els have been converted into commercial and community sites that have fitted in with their localities.

"We have to be careful in the Dudley borough and the Black Country that we don't lose our heritage. This chapel is part of the fabric of the community."

The chapel, which includes a main hall, entrance hall, rear hall, kitchen and lobby, played an important role in the community prior to its sudden closure last year, with choirs singing and other events regularly staged at the building.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homes approved despite objections

FOUR homes will be built on land in Coseley that was previously used for stables. Councillors have approved plans for the homes at Ivyhouse Lane.

Four of the properties will be two-bedroomed while one will have three bedrooms. Eleven parking spaces will be provided for the homes.

Dudley Council's planning committee unanimously backed the application despite concerns raised by people living nearby. Five letters of objection were sent to the council raising concerns over loss of privacy, noise nuisance and the design of the homes.

Zoo's calendar is helping tiger care

SALES of Dudley Zoo's 2015 calendar have raised £700 for a charity which supports endangered tigers in the wild.

The zoo has handed the proceeds over to conservation charity 21st Century Tiger after copies of the calendar flew off the shelves.

The fundraising calendar featured spectacular photographs of some of the zoo's favourite animals captured by keen amateur photographers. Visitors snapped up the calendar with staff posting packages to Australia, USA and Germany too.

Volunteers needed to help the King

QUARRY Bank Musical Theatre Company needs volunteers to help in front of house at its next production.

The King and I is being staged at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from June 2 to 6 and people are needed to sell programmes, raffle tickets, sweets, ice creams and tea and coffee.

Performances are at 7.15pm each day with a 2.15pm matinee on the Saturday.

Email chairman@qbmts.org.uk to help or buy tickets on 07913 884208.

Theatre group seek recruits for comedy

THE Norton Players in Stourbridge are looking for recruits to help fill the remaining roles in a stage adaptation of Victoria Wood sit-com Dinnerladies, staged this autumn.

The group is looking for two male actors aged between 25 and 50 and two female actresses aged 35 to 50. Other actors are needed for various roles. The group meets at the Garibaldi pub in Cross Street on Tuesdays from 7pm. Call 07954692588 or email nortonplayers@hotmail.com

Carer week's fun day

CARERS' Week will be launched in Dudley with a family fun day event next weekend.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service holds the event at the Stafford Street Day Centre on Saturday, 10am to 3pm. The event will include crafts stalls and a visit from a fire engine.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of theirs.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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But where does the poverty line fall?

ALMOST a third of people in the UK fell below the poverty line at least once between 2010 and 2013, according to new figures from the Office of National Statistics.

The thing is though, look around you, and you don't see thousands of Oliver Twist-type street urchins clamouring for food, or old people dressed in rags.

Which is not really surprising, when poverty is these days defined as having a disposable income of less than 60 per cent of the national average.

But surely the whole point of averages is that some people will come above that line, and others will be below it.

And extending that logic a little further, a sure fire way to lift people out of poverty would be to reduce the average standard of living.

Now there are undoubtedly some very poor people in the world today, children suffering from malnutrition, families without clean drinking water, but by and large they don't live in this country.

And they don't have mobile phones, televisions or a disposable income of any kind, let alone one that is 60 per cent of the national average.

The truth is that almost everybody in this country is comparatively well-off, and we really should be more appreciative of what we do have.

Casual use of terms like 'poverty' do not just give people a sense of entitlement. They are also a great insult to the millions of genuinely poor people around the world.



THERE has been a lot of talk recently about police cuts. Next month Dudley, which is Britain's second biggest town, will be without a police station which is open to the public, which is a truly ridiculous state of affairs.

The message doesn't seem to have got through to police in Walsall, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne though.

Last week, the Northumbria force managed to scramble four patrol cars and a helicopter as they chased three cows which escaped from a dairy farm. One of the poor creatures was shot by police marksman.

A bit harsh. I thought in those parts, when confronted by large animals, they just got Newcastle United fans to punch them in the face.



ACCORDING to a new study by boffins in Iran, flowers in vases filled with urine will last twice as long as those in ordinary water.

Which should make for some wonderful conversations at dinner parties about the stunning array of blooms in the middle of the table. Probably best not to go into too much detail about the fertiliser for the home-grown potatoes though.



Jahni Dyer with Tonia Daley-Campbell, both in Lenny's TV drama



Jahni Dyer, aged 9, who plays young Danny, in rehearsals



Sparks fly as the crew films a scene in Thomas Dudley's foundry

Lenny visits teenage years in new TV show

CRAIG HUGHES meets the young actors in Lenny Henry's Black Country television drama *Danny And The Human Zoo*

IT'S Black Country life 40 years ago as told by one of the region's most famous sons.

And the people and places in Lenny Henry's new drama, *Danny And The Human Zoo*, will be made flesh and blood by young actors from a local drama school.

Lenny, born and raised in Dudley, said the piece is semi-autobiographical and gives a glimpse into life as a working-class teenager growing up in the 1970s.

It centres around the character Danny Fearon, a talented impressionist, and his working-class Jamaican family, as he rises to fame as a stand-up comedian.

The cast will include Arthur Darvill from *Broadchurch*, One Foot In The Grave actor Richard Wilson and Mark Benton from *Watterson Road*.

Speaking of the drama, in which Lenny plays Danny's father Samson, he said: "I can't believe that we're finally shooting my screenplay *Danny And The Human Zoo!* This is a fantasy memoir of the first two years of my career — my beginnings, working on the zoo, working men's clubs and all that stuff that happened to me in the mid-Seventies — but crammed into 90 minutes.

"I think, although it's not exactly what happened, we'll get a strong sense of what it might have been like for a young black kid from Dudley to be suddenly hurled into the maelstrom of this business we call."

Locations

Filming has started and includes members of the Active Creative Training School (ACTS), run by Tonia Daley-Campbell in Wolverhampton.

The youngsters, along with Tonia herself, have been filming at locations across the Black Country and Birmingham. The 37-year-old



Actor and comedian Lenny Henry with young actors from Wolverhampton Tyrique Douglas, Taylia-May Campbell and Tyrese McKenzie on set for his new drama, *Danny And The Human Zoo*

has been running ACTS from Wolverhampton Heritage Centre, on Clifford Street, for two years, offering coaching and support for five to 18-year-olds interested in acting.

Tonia, who has four children of her own and is also a foster parent to two others, said the role meant even more due to Lenny's involvement.

Despite the joy of getting the role of Mrs Patterson, the mother of Cherry, who is a friend of Danny, she said: "I was more excited the kids had got the parts. The exciting thing for me about this project is it is Midlands-based, it is filmed in the Midlands and by Midlands

actors. He is an inspiration to up-and-coming young people from the Midlands — and the Black Country in particular — because it is not easy forging a career in the arts."

The school runs on Saturday mornings between 9.45am and 12.30pm and there are plans to expand.

"They learn acting skills, audition skills, they have confidence building," Tonia said. "Whenever they get asked to audition for a role they are equipped. Young kids from Wolverhampton are getting opportunities that are not always easy to come by unless you are in London," she added.

Jahni Dyer has been given the part of playing a young Danny before the character hits his teenage years. The nine-year-old, from Wolverhampton, has been learning about acting for two years and met Lenny during filming on several occasions — even getting tips on dance moves.

The pupil at St Judes Academy said: "I was amazed because I didn't think I was going to get it. I am excited because I am going to see myself on TV. The people I tell think 'wow.'

Jahni said he was pleased to have got the role based, particularly as Lenny was involved.

"He is a big time actor," he said. "He helped me. I am meant to be dancing to My Boy Lollipop. He showed me some different dance moves. He is a very nice guy."

Taylia-May Campbell, from Fordhouses, wasn't keen on wearing 1970s-style clothing after being cast as Danny's niece Marjory. But the 12-year-old, who goes to Alders High, said being part of filming for the programme is one of the best things she has been involved in.

Screaming

After finding out she had got the part, she said: "I was happy, I was running around the house screaming."

"I didn't know who Lenny Henry was until my mother told me. He is funny, he is really nice."

"I was nervous at first. Then I started to get used to being on camera. It is one of the best things I have ever done. Sometimes I didn't like putting on the clothes. It was only a dress but I am not used to wearing dresses."

Tyrese McPherson-McKenzie, 13, of Penn, is playing Terrence, the nephew of Danny. Tyrese, who attends St Chad's School, said: "I was surprised, I have never been picked for anything like that before. I was happy but I didn't expect it. My family are happy for me."

"I have found it fun in front of the camera. The best thing was seeing how it is made, how they build the set."

Tyrique Douglas, 14, of Pendeford, is performing the role of nephew Albert.

After being told he was to be part of the production the St Edmunds School pupil said: "I was excited because I was going to experience what it is like on TV."

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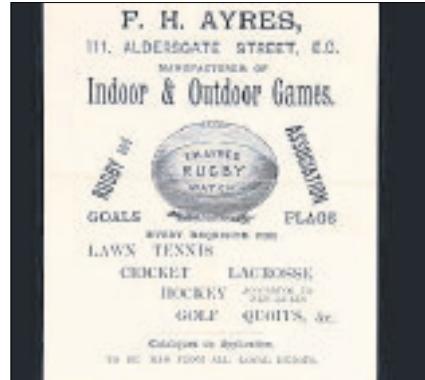
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West Brom's victory came at the third attempt, against the next season's champions



The advertising page on the back of the rare programme



The West Bromwich Albion team who were winners of the FA Cup in 1888

Return to Baggies' glory days as rare programme sells for £20k at auction

MEMORY LANE

Report by Richard Guttridge

A MATCHDAY programme from the 1888 FA Cup Final when West Bromwich Albion upset the odds to beat Preston North End, originally bought for one penny, has been sold at auction for £20,000.

The sale makes the historic piece of memorabilia one of the most expensive football programmes ever purchased.

The 1888 cup final was held in front of 19,000 fans at The Oval cricket ground in London, was a million miles away from the glitz of the showpiece final that awaits Aston Villa and Arsenal at Wembley on Saturday. But like Villa this year,

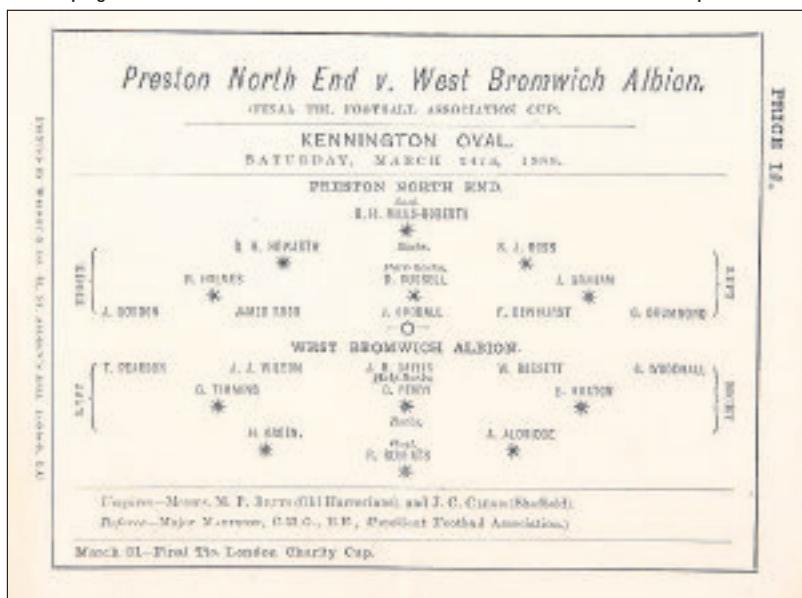
Albion went into the game as underdogs. The following season Preston would finish the first Football League season undefeated and during their run to the 1888 final they thrashed Hyde 26-0.

But on a March afternoon it was the Baggies that were victorious, winning 2-1 to bring the cup to the Black Country for the first time. The programme, which was made up of just a single sheet featuring the team line-ups and an advertisement on the back, is thought to be one of the few that survive from the momentous day in the club's history.

It was bought at Graham Budd Auctions in London on Tuesday by a private collector. A photograph of Albion's 1888 FA Cup winning team was included with the programme.

In 2006, the programme from the 1888 FA Cup final between Preston and Wolves sold for £21,850, which at the time was the highest amount paid for a programme. Albion were appearing in the FA Cup Final for the third consecutive year in 1888 but after two heart-breaking defeats they finally got their hands on the silverware.

But another reason the programme is desired for collectors is that the final ended in controversy, with many observers feeling that the referee had shown bias towards West Brom's all English 11.



The line-up of teams for the final, held at the 'Kennington Oval' – known as The Oval today – as printed in 1888

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2lb baby Jasmine is all grown up, 18 years on

WHEN Jasmine Pole was born, she weighed just 2lbs 10oz after being born 11 weeks prematurely.

But the Kingswinford teenager has overcome health issues and is now on the verge of celebrating her landmark 18th birthday.

Jasmine is currently studying a foundation course for children with special needs at Stourbridge College.

The 17-year-old, who turns 18 next month, suffers from dyspraxia, which means she has difficulty remembering things, but does not have any other health problems.

Her mother Sue said: "She has done really well and works really hard and is highly motivated, while she also plays some sport."

Sue had an emergency Caesarian after being rushed into hospital with pre-eclampsia, a pregnancy disorder characterised by high blood pressure and a large amount of protein in the urine. It places both mother and baby at risk.

The disease includes poor liver and kidney function, as well as shortness of breath due to fluid in the lungs.

Shock

Mrs Pole said: "It was a bit of a shock."

"Going straight to hospital and not knowing what the outcome was going to be when they scanned me to find out how big the baby was."

Another risk to her daughter's health was that she had suffered an infection, which she was susceptible to due to her very low weight.

But Jasmine was eventually allowed to leave the hospital for home once she weighed 4lbs.

Mrs Pole added that she did not know what the effect of such early

health problems would be on Jasmine as she grew older.

However, the youngster went on to attend Crestwood Park Primary School in Kingswinford before going on to study at college.

Families

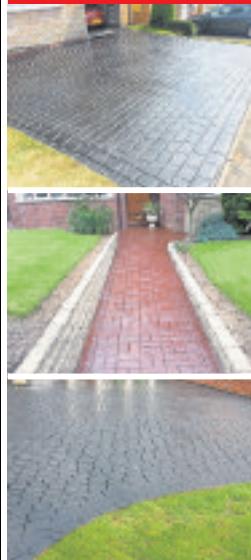
Mrs Pole says he received support from a group that helps the families of children who have had difficulties at birth.

She lives with her husband Jonathan, aged 53 and also has a son, Casey, aged 21.



Jasmine Pole, who will be celebrating her 18th birthday, is pictured with mother Sue

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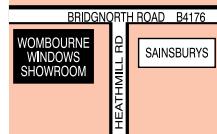


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Grange E TG

CHAIRMAN Hazel Smith presided over the meeting held on May 5 at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge. She welcomed all members and visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, accepted as a true record and signed.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report.

Secretary Jean Williams told members she would be entering two teams into the Federation's Inter-Guild Quiz being held at Stourbridge Football Club on June 1. Tickets for the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster to see Noises Off have been reserved. The guild's birthday dinner will be held on June 30 at The Brasserie, Kidderminster.

The chairman introduced the speaker for the evening, David Bills who gave a very informative talk about the Kinver Rock Houses. Hazel gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the members.

Refreshments were served by the committee and the raffle was drawn with three lucky ladies winning the prizes.

This month's sales table consisting of sweets and chocolates went well with all items being sold.

The next meeting will be held at Grange Court on June 2 when the speaker will be Ken Gilkes who will be giving a talk entitled Odes of Life and Laughter. Next month's sales table will consist of flowers and plants.

The guild is still recruiting new members. Call the secretary on 01384 832439.

Ladies hear Wiggin about steelworks



Margaret Homer with speaker Nigel Wiggin at the last meeting

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed members and visitors to the May Luncheon at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath.

It was an excellent three-course lunch followed by a most interesting talk by Nigel Wiggin, the great grandson of the founder of Old Hall Stainless Steel. It began in Buxton in 1893 by two blacksmiths from the family of six sons. They made buckles for the leather trade and Nigel's grandfather William Wiggin introduced stirrups.

In 1904 they moved into an Old Salvation Army Mission Hall. The business expanded until they had a workforce of more than 500 and during the war they worked for the Ministry of Defence, but in 1984 they were

put out of business by cheap poor quality imports. Nigel now heads a 200-strong Old Hall Collectors Club on the internet. He was happy to value several ladies' tea sets which had been in daily use for more than 50-60 years and were still as good as new. Members could also buy quality items from the sales table at reasonable prices.

The next luncheon is on June 12 when the speaker is Ruth Lowe on Mary Quant Fashion and on July 10, Ray Sturdy will present a See and Hear Quiz.

Afternoon tea marks 85th year

Trysull & Seisdon WI

Seisdon WI is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year and members are invited to afternoon tea at Dunsley Hall, Kinver on Saturday June 20.

Speaker was Jacqui Johnsson from Keepers Lane Garden Centre, a family run

concern, which has been in business for 20 years.

Doreen Walker had a go at making up a basket, which was entered into the raffle and won by Margaret Farquharson.

The next meeting is on Thursday July 9 when the group will hear Peter Taunton talking about being a town crier.



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Blooming lovely — come rain or shine

FLOWERS are adding a welcome splash of colour to businesses and homes around Wall Heath.

Business owners and volunteers have been busy working to brighten up the village and are hoping to enter next year's Village in Bloom contest. Flowers, including marigolds, have been planted around shopping precinct areas and hanging baskets have gone up.

Volunteers have been out and about — rain or shine — working to create the colourful floral displays.

Chairman of Wall Heath Village People, Michelle Preston, who is also landlady of The Horse & Jockey, said it was all about making the vil-

lage a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

"We are trying to improve the village and bring the generations together," she said. "We are hoping to build on this year's work to enter Village in Bloom next year."

"We've had a lot of volunteers who have been helping with the planting. We are really pleased with the number of people who have come forward. People keep stopping me in the street to tell me how good the village is looking."

The flowers have been sponsored by Ashwood Nurseries, Marston's, Amblecote Furnishings, Snow Hill Timber and Helping Hands.



Braving wet weather to plant flowers in Wall Heath are the Village People volunteers and sponsors

Probe after hotel burns to ground

POLICE are trying to track down people seen by a hotel near Kidderminster hours before it was gutted by a fire.

The Mill Hotel at Alveley was destroyed by last week's fire and police want to speak to people who were seen in the area at about 2.30am on Monday, May 18. Police also wish to speak to occupants of vehicles at Alum Bridge between midnight and 5am.

Investigations were being delayed because the ruins were too dangerous to enter. Kieren Bodill, of West Mercia Police, said: "We are continuing to work closely with the fire service and hope to establish the cause of the fire in a week or so."

More than 80 firefighters battled the blaze at the three-storey hotel, which closed suddenly last September as a result of owner Elysian Care's problems. Parts of the building date back to the 16th century.

Information can be passed on to police by calling 101.

Homeless families' total hotel bill is £180k

NEARLY £200,000 was spent last year on paying for homeless families to stay in hotels and bed and breakfasts across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Taxpayers last year forked out more than £180,000 to cover the cost of overnight stays, latest figures show.

Wolverhampton City Council housed the most at 136 families in bed and breakfasts in a year between 2014 and 2015 at a cost of £87,075.

A spokesman for Wolverhampton City Council said: "The council works hard to help and support families who are either at risk of becoming, or who have actually become, homeless."

"In cases where they have lost their tenancy, we work as quickly as we can to find them alternative accommodation.

Until this is arranged, it is necessary for the council to provide temporary and safe accommodation while the assessments are carried out.

"We don't place people in temporary accommodation any longer than is necessary and where possible, we seek to recover costs through housing benefit contributions."

Benefits

Sandwell Council said it currently has 18 households living in hotels in the region. And in 2013 to 2014 it cost £48,281 to shelter residents with nowhere to go, with a net cost to the authority of £10,138. The rest is covered by housing benefits.

The authority's deputy leader and cabinet member for neighbourhoods, Coun-

by Deborah Hardiman

cillor Mahboob Hussain, said that the length of time a household stays in hotels varies, depending on individual circumstances, but normally it is for no longer than six weeks.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for housing Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "As a council, there are some situations where we have a duty to find people somewhere to stay when they find themselves homeless."

"Last year we helped 109 families find temporary accommodation in local bed and breakfast establishments.

"The majority of people stay between one and four nights and we are predicting a £20,000 spend on the service this year."

In Walsall between April 2014 and April 2015, Walsall Council has accommodated a total of 61 households and of these 21 had children. On average they stay seven nights.

The total cost is £6,000 with the council recouping the costs from housing benefit contributions where possible.

Prince presents OBE to Albion legend

WEST Bromwich Albion legend Brendon Batson has been presented at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace.

The 62-year-old has been recognised for his commitment in trying to eradicate racism from football. The former Baggies defender, who was affectionately known as one of the Three Degrees along with Cyrille Regis and the late Laurie Cunningham, helped blaze a trail for black footballers in the English game during the 1970s. He has campaigned doggedly for equality for black players and coaches.

Batson, who made 172 appearances during a four-year spell at the Hawthorns, was named among the recipients of awards on the New Year Honours list. He received his OBE for services to football from Prince William at Buckingham Palace.

Batson worked for the Professional Footballers' Association and more recently has been an adviser to the FA on equality and football development.

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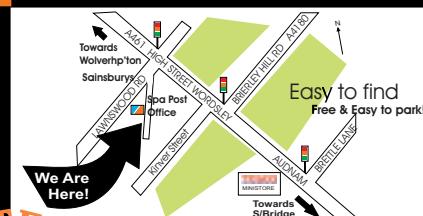
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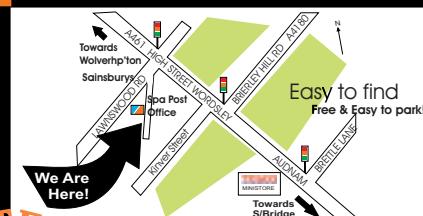


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Former Regis School classmates gather for the reunion at the Lindens, Tettenhall



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Phil Amies, Jim Parrott and Katherine Fraser catch up on old times



Judy Lavender, Diane Winnall and Kathleen Hill



Laurence Foster of Dublin and Lynne Etherington catch up with current Kings CofE School head John Allin

Ex-pupils mark 60 years since school's formation

DOZENS of former pupils of Wolverhampton's landmark Regis School gathered to celebrate 60 years since they first walked through its doors.

The class of 1955 was the first to attend the Tettenhall Road school, one of the country's first ventures into the now defunct comprehensive schools system.

Former pupils met up at Linden House to reminisce about old times - with one man returning from San Francisco and another ex-student making the trip over from Vienna.

The reunion was organised by childhood friends Kath Hill, Diane Winnall and Judy Lavender, who decided to commemorate the anniversary following the success of a smaller gathering at the Dog and Gun pub in Tettenhall last year.

Ms Lavender, aged 71, from Tettenhall, said it was wonderful to see so many old friends back together.

"Most of the men here were in short trousers last time I saw them," she

MEMORY LANE

By Jessica Labhart

said. "We've all changed a bit as you'd expect, but you can still recognise a few of the old faces."

"It's nice that people have come from far and wide."

Some notable names have attended the school over the years, including Olympic sprinter Denise Lewis, England cricketer Virender Sehwag and England international rugby player Sam Doble. Another famous old boy, actor and director Laurence Foster, made the trip over from his home in Ireland to attend the gathering.

He said: "Being here today it's like we've all just come off the playground. "Back then we all bonded so quickly. It was a new school in a new system, but I have nothing but fond memories."

"The Regis was a place where we were encouraged to make the best of our abilities. We were allowed to have a voice, which wasn't always the case in other schools in those days."

The first batch of staff at the school

- which became Kings School in 1998 - were all hand-picked private school graduates who taught lessons decked out in their university gowns.

They were marshalled by much-loved headteacher Sir Godfrey Cretney, who was knighted in 1966 for his services to education.

Suzette Thompson, 71, attended the reunion with her friend Rose Tench, also 71, from Claregate.

Attention

Ms Thompson said: "Sir Godfrey was a wonderful man. He was small in stature but had an incredible presence. Everyone automatically stood to attention when he entered the room."

The reunion featured a display of pictures from the past to help jog attendees' memories, which was painstakingly compiled over a two week period by former student Phil Amies.

He also prepared a DVD presentation which was played during the event that documented the pupils' school trips around the UK and mainland Europe, which included visits to Derbyshire, Yorkshire, the Lake District as well as Paris.



One of the old pictures displayed at the reunion



One of the girls' hockey teams on show at the reunion to mark 60 years of Regis School

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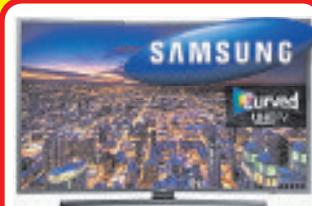
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Modfather back with rock classic

ALBUM REVIEWS

By Leon Burakowski

THE Modfather roars back with his 12th solo album and *Saturns Pattern* is one of his best yet.

Like his musical peer Noel Gallagher on the High Flying Birds' album *Chasing Yesterday*, Paul Weller has gone back to go forward with a funky, bluesy new psychedelic sound, most evident on the quirky piano-led title track and the instant classic *Pick It Up*.

But perhaps most telling is the fact that Weller actually sounds upbeat, maybe it's a sense of well being suggested by the title I'm Where I Should Be. The album has some of his most summery sounds, *Phoenix* and *These City Streets*, since the heyday of The Style Council.

The former Jam man has still got a licence to thrill with distorted and scuffed blues cruncher *White Sky* and the belligerent *Long Time*.

Maybe it's something to do with a planetary alignment, but Weller's *Saturns Pattern* ranks alongside young band Django Django's *Born Under Saturn* as one of the best albums of the year so far.

The big time beckons for London band *The Vaccines* whose third album, *English Graffiti*, grabs you by the lapels from the moment it blasts out of the blocks with the swaggering surf rock of *Handsome*.

Singer Justin Hayward-Young pulls off a star turn on new single *Dream Lover*, a stadium-sized anthem, and they surprise with the lithe *Minimal Attraction* which brilliantly sounds like Fleetwood Mac meets *The Strokes*.

Is that an echo of The Jam on 20/20? A hint of Air on (*All Afternoon*) *In Love?* A touch of Depeche Mode on *Denial*?



Going back to go forward — Paul Weller's psychedelic flavoured *Saturns Pattern*

It is the sound of *The Vaccines* making an excellent eclectic album. That impression is confirmed by the yearning *Maybe I Could Hold You* and the punchy *Gimme A Sign*.

The Vaccines will be in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 17.

Will Young is back on the pop scene after four years in which he has concentrated on his stage career, including playing the Emcee in the touring production of *Cabaret* that came to Wolverhampton Grand.

He is now with Island Records, having come to the end of the multi-album deal that followed his *Pop Idol* triumph 13 years ago. The singer who famously gave Simon Cowell a telling off (they are still daggers drawn) apparently went on to create a string of slick, enjoyable and creditable pop albums.

Likeable recent single *Love Revolution* with its vintage Motown-like sound has paved the way for sixth studio album *85% Proof*, which draws on disco and funk for some inspiration but elsewhere goes for a stark melancholy, such as the impressive closer *I Don't*

Need A Lover. The singer reckons it's his most honest album, drawing on his experiences including being bullied at school. He pushes his vocals to straining point to express raw emotion.

Hot Chip hit a more reflective groove, ready to chill after a night in the club, on their sixth album *Why Make Sense?* but the hedonistic throb of the dancefloor is never far away. When *Hot Chip* do try something a little different, on *White Wine And Fried Chicken* and *So Much Further To Go*, the starker setting shows up the limited nature of Alexis Taylor's vocals.

Powerhouse Wolverhampton duo *God Damn* have unleashed a mighty beast of an album with their debut *Vultures*, an exhilarating blend of grinding hard rock guitars, crashing drums and sneering vocal attitude. Thom Edward (guitar/vocals) and Ash Weaver (drums) will be compared with Royal Blood but the Black Country outfit actually have a more varied and melodic sound with their heavy riffing infused with psychedelic flourishes. Highlights include the ferocious *We Don't Like You* and the epic nine-minute *Skeleton*.

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Work on park paths complete

A £70,000 project to create a series of new footpaths through a Cradley park has been completed.

The work has been carried out at Homer Hill Park to improve access for its many visitors. The five new paths have been made in and around the perimeter of the park and now join up with the existing network of walking routes.

Some of the cash to fund the project came from the sale of the former crematorium lodge in Chase Road, Lower Gornal.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The work to extend the old footpath network on the park has now been completed and has enabled the majority of the park to now be easily accessed via a new surfaced pedestrian route."

Snooker club gutted by fire



Ruin – the remains of the popular Dudley Snooker Hall in Stafford Street will be demolished
THIS picture shows the devastating aftermath of a fire which ripped through a Dudley snooker hall at the weekend.

Dudley Snooker & Pool Club, in Stafford Street, has been gutted by the huge blaze, which broke out in the early hours of Sunday. The ruined remains will be demolished.

More than 50 firefighters attended and battled the fire for five hours but could not save the building, which is expected to be torn down this week to make the area safe.

The neighbouring businesses Price 2 Beat Bespoke Bedrooms and Kitchens were also severely damaged by the blaze. No one was injured at any of the premises and investigators are still trying to find the cause.

Traders spoke of their shock at the destruction.

Farad Latif, manager of Dudley Butchers, said: "It was a major social venue for

Wrestlers ready to rumble at 2016 show

SOME of the biggest names in professional wrestling will be coming to the West Midlands next year.

Popular American wrestling company TNA will bring its Impact show to Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena in January. Top wrestlers Kurt Angle, James Storm, Matt Hardy and more are all scheduled to feature.

TNA president Dixie Carter said: "The energy and passion of the crowds on the 2015 UK Tour earlier this year was off the charts."

"In direct response to talking with the fans about what they loved and how we could take their experience to another level when we come back to Manchester, Birmingham and London in January 2016, we will be making some exciting changes on the next tour."

Tickets for the event in Birmingham, which will take place on January 31, 2016, go on sale today (Friday) and will cost from £17.50.

County has new leader

A NEW chairman of Worcestershire County Council has been appointed.

Councillor Ian Hopwood has taken the ceremonial chains and will undertake the role of for the next 12 months.

The former Mayor of Malvern said: "It is a great honour to be appointed as chairman for the county."

"I will endeavour to make this year a good year, and I will do my upmost to ensure I do right for the office and community."

Fire chief to face MPs over move to cut emergency cover

MPS have called Staffordshire's chief fire officer to Westminster to explain plans to downgrade stations still being built.

Gavin Williamson, South Staffordshire's MP, has said the plan will turn fire stations into little more than "glorified community centres" – including some that are still under construction.

Chief fire officer Peter Dartford will travel to Westminster to meet MPs. The proposals are for emergency cover to be removed from 18 fire stations and the number of engines reduced from 42 at 33 stations to 15 engines at 15 stations. Of

the fire stations referred to in the proposals, re-vamps of Kinver and Codsall have not yet been finished.

In a letter to Staffordshire Fire Service, Kinver MP Mr Williamson said: "Not only do I think that this would lead to substantial and highly dangerous gaps within the provision of the Staffordshire Fire Service, but I am also shocked at the grotesque waste of money that would be involved if the fire service pursues this route.

"I think that currently it needs to be pointed out to you that you are in the process of building two brand new fire stations in Kinver and

Codsall. What you are proposing to do is to turn these brand new fire stations, built at vast expense, into glorified community centres. If this is not a most obscene waste of public money I do not know what is, and I personally believe that you would be at risk of being surcharged for the misuse of public money."

Mr Dartford said: "The Fire and Rescue Authority felt it was important for us to explore a range of options, however radical they may be, to be confident no stone has been left unturned as we strive to identify ways to make financial savings."

Evening with a football legend

ENGLAND and Newcastle United football legend Alan Shearer is visiting the Black Country to help raise funds for Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

An Evening with Alan Shearer is being held at the Copthorne Hotel in Level Street, Brierley Hill, on November 26 at 7.15pm. The former England captain will be speaking about his career and the current state of the game.

The 44-year-old Match of the Day pundit, who also played for Southampton and Blackburn Rovers, scored a record 260 Premier League goals and 30 for England.

He managed Newcastle briefly after his retirement in 2006. Tickets are £65 each or £60 per person for tables and are available by calling 01902 244220.

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New light shone on a dark drama

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Merchant of Venice,
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon

THE Merchant of Venice remains one of Shakespeare's most controversial plays and most relevant in its dealing with issues of racism and anti-semitism.

Presented on a super shiny reflective set of burnished metallic tiles, with a pendulum ominously swinging in the background, Polly Findlay's production updates the play in modern dress — it looks like the wardrobe department have raided Primark.

She also slashes some of the text to bring it in at a pacey two hours and ten minutes. The actors sit on benches at the sides of the stage, as if eager to get on with it.

Marc Tritschler's choral music with medieval influences is lovely but at odds with the modern approach.

This is a problematic play. Modern audiences squirm at the horrible insults rained down on the central Jewish character and at a Moroccan prince being deemed unsuitable husband material because of the colour of his skin.

Intelligent

But this production makes a difficult-to-like play highly watchable.

Findlay brings in a romantic triangle subtext, a passionate kiss revealing Venetians Antonio (Jamie Ballard) and Bassanio (Jacob Fortune-Lloyd) as lovers.

This explains Antonio's odd decision to borrow from Jewish moneylender Shylock, who he hates, in order to fund Bassanio's wooing of rich heiress Portia.



Outsider — Makram J Khouri as Shylock, picture by Hugo Glendinning

Patsy Ferran gives a standout performance as the fiercely intelligent Portia, who eventually realises the nature of her intended husband's friendship with the merchant.

As Shylock Israeli Palestinian actor Makram J Khouri, his accent marking him an an outsider, radiates a wounded dignity. The scenes in which Venetians spit in his face are uncomfortable.

He remains a sympathetic character even as he sharpens his knife in readiness for vicious revenge, demanding

his pound of flesh in forfeit for Antonio's debt.

Ballard's howls of terror as Antonio awaits his fate are hair-raising. This scene of victim turned intimidator surely has resonance in today's Middle East. But it certainly doesn't make Shylock's final humiliation any easier to swallow.

The Merchant of Venice remains in repertoire until September 2 and the Royal Shakespeare Company production is screened live at cinemas on July 22.

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Spy laws used 400 times in five years by councils

Joey drops in to sign books at Merry Hill



After a biography at 24, TOWIE star Joey Essex will be signing his latest book, which readers can co-write. REALITY TV star Joey Essex, who found fame on The Only Way is Essex, will be signing his new book at Merry Hill Shopping Centre tomorrow (Friday).

He will be at Waterstones at 11am signing copies of The Book of You (and Me).

The 24-year-old television personality and DJ left popular TV show TOWIE in 2013 and has since appeared on a host of TV programmes, including winning celebrity winter sports show The Jump. The all-action celeb also part in diving show Splash! and finished fourth in the 13th series of I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!

The book, Joey's second, is designed as a journal and includes pages for readers to create their own story with him. His first book, Being Reem, was a biography.

Fellow TOWIE stars Lauren Pope, Lydia Bright, Fearne McCann and Georgia Kousoulou were at Merry Hill earlier this month to promote the fragrance The Only Way is Marbs.

JLR plant is set to expand creating 1,000 more jobs

JAGUAR Land Rover is set to almost double the size of its factory out the outskirts of Wolverhampton — creating around 1,000 more jobs.

The L-shape development next to the company's existing 154 plant could be completed in two years, although what it will be producing remains a secret.

The single-storey building will be up to 11 metres high and built to match the existing £500 million, 100,000sqm engine plant. A full planning application is scheduled to be submitted next month and work could start on the new 85,000sqm development off Wobaston Road as soon as October.

It is expected to take up to

COUNCILS in the West Midlands have used controversial spy powers to snoop on residents nearly 400 times in the last five years.

Surveillance powers have been used 388 times, to catch fly-tippers, graffiti vandals, noisy neighbours, and even dog foulers since 2010.

Techniques vary from direct surveillance, such as following a suspect, to intercepting their phone records.

Sandwell Council has used powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 180 times since 2010. Wolverhampton used the powers 152 times, Staffordshire County Council 33 times, and Dudley Council 18 times.

Stafford Borough Council has used it just five times.

But the use of these powers has been cut dramatically to just a handful of times overall in the past two years since local

Report by Rob Golledge

authorities were required to get magistrates' permission.

The use of such powers has been hit by controversy after it was revealed police forces had been using the legislation on journalists to identify their sources.

Civil rights campaigners say the law was passed to fight terrorism and serious organised crime but authorities were using it to intrude into residents' lives.

Terrorism

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson, who has campaigned for surveillance laws to be restricted, said: "RIPA was passed with the intention it would be used to fight terrorism and serious organised crime — not to spy on ordinary people. One thing all the parties agree on is that it needed to change and there is still need for further reform on its use by other agencies."

Figures show the powers were mostly

used by the councils to catch rogue traders and benefits cheats and those committing anti-social behaviour. All councils say they have not targeted journalists.

Sandwell used the powers 95 times on trading standards investigations, 72 times in anti-social behaviour cases, 10 in environmental protection breaches, and three cases of benefit fraud.

In Wolverhampton, suspected benefit cheats have been placed under surveillance 35 times.

The powers have also been used to catch fly-tippers, identify fly-posters, and noisy neighbours on 45 occasions.

Staffordshire County Council used surveillance powers nine times to investigate underage alcohol sales, on seven occasions in suspected benefit cheat cases, and four times in trading standard cases and four times in underage tobacco sale investigations.

Walsall Council failed to respond to a request made for data under the Freedom of Information Act.

Police £24m merger of control hub

WEST Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police have secured £2.4 million to set up a joint operations and communications centre based across two sites.

One will be at Hindlip Park in Worcestershire, serving the West Mercia force area, and the other at Leek Wootton in Warwickshire. It means the main control room for West Mercia Police in Shrewsbury will close under the shake-up.

More than £2.4m has been secured from the Police Innovation Fund to fund the new initiative, on top of £800,000 secured last year from the Precursor Police Innovation Fund. The force says it will allow West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police to strengthen their relationship.

The new control centres will be shared with Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

The new arrangement means 999 calls will no longer be dealt with by staff in Shropshire.

But the forces say that, under the plans, the joint centre will allow the police and fire service to support each other during peak periods or critical incidents.

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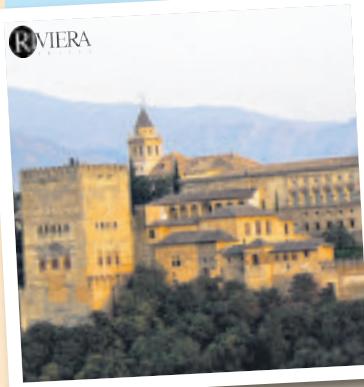


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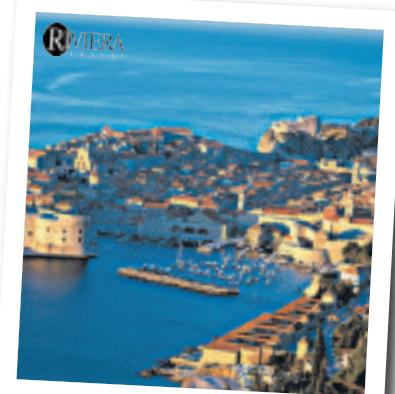
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fast theticket

Manics mania

Rock giants at Civic – Page 23



Greg Davies at Grand gala

Page 23

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The Beach Boys
Fri at 8pm, £44.40 - £48.94
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

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Mon at 7pm, £35.75
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

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Sandpiper Folk Club Night
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Pigot Arms, Pattingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ. Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
Thu at 8.30pm, £1
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Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band
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The Willows
Mon at 8pm, £10.50 - £13
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01784 254653

The Blues Brothers Experience
Fri at 7.30pm, £17.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Hot Mikado
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Lichfield Garrison, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Back to Broadway
Sat at 7.30pm, £17.75 - £18.75
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Elves & The Shoemaker
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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Steve Brookstein
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The Beach Boys



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Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
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Buddy
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Billy Ocean
Sun at 7.30pm, £30
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

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Stafford College Music Students
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Occasionally We Skype
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Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

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We'll Meet Again - Hits From The Blitz
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Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Poetry Reading
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DANCE

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Sat at 2pm, £5
Light House, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Elvis Costello



Sunday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
Following the success of his 2014 solo shows, Elvis Costello is back on the road with a new tour named Detour. His solo shows have been some of the most adventurous of his career. Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Madame Butterfly with Perpetuum Mobile
Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £27.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Supreme Fabulette
Fri at 8pm, £19.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business
Sat at 8pm, £25 - £28.90
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Ruby Wax - Sane New World
Fri at 7.30pm, £15.50 - £17.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01784 254653

Alexei Sayle: Listen With Alexei
Sat at 8pm, £11 - £13
mac, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Lucy Beaumont
Fri at 8pm, £12
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

OTHER EVENTS

The Quiz
Tue at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Horrible Histories!
Fri, Sat, Sun at 10am, Free
Warwick Castle, Warwick, CV34 4QU. Call 01926 495421

Open Mic Night
Mon at 8.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Family History Buddy
Wed at 9.30am - 1pm, 1.45pm - 5pm, Free
Walsall Local History Centre, WS2 7AS. Call 01922 721305

1600s Gardening Group
Tue at 10am - 1pm, Free
The Oak House Museum, West Bromwich, B70 8HJ. Call 0121 553 0759

Coffee Mornings
Fri, Sat, Thu at 2pm - 5pm, £2
Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF. Call 0121 556 0683

Guitar Group Sessions
Sat at 2pm, £5
Light House, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Bible according to the Manics



Manic Street Preachers — drummer Sean Moore, bassist Nicky Wire and singer-guitarist James Dean Bradfield

AFTER Welsh rockers The Manic Street Preachers announced they would be playing special shows celebrating the 20th anniversary of their third album, *The Holy Bible*, the tickets sold out in minutes.

That was a milestone release for the band, and the last album featuring rhythm guitarist and lyricist Richey Edwards, who disappeared five months after the LP came out.

The Manics have sold out all those

dates including Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Monday, after releasing a deluxe box set of *The Holy Bible* including BBC recordings of their last gigs with Richey Edwards.

James Dean Bradfield, Nicky Wire and Sean Moore have released two new albums, *Rewind The Film* and *Futurology*, in little over a year. They also sold out the Civic last year, treating fans to a storming concert.

Other upcoming highlights include

Brandon Flowers of The Killers at the O2 Academy in Birmingham tonight (sold out), and The Beach Boys at the Barclaycard Arena tomorrow.

On Sunday LA's Maroon 5 will have Moves Like Jagger at the Genting Arena (NEC), while the tough get going for Billy Ocean at Birmingham Town Hall (sold out). Elvis Costello is at Birmingham Symphony Hall and Indiana's Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band play Bilston's Robin 2.

Inbetweeners star tops bill

STAND-UP comedian and Inbetweeners star Greg Davies will top the bill at this year's Hilarity Charity Gala, which will be a rare chance to catch the Shropshire comic in live action as he is currently busy making new TV show Taskmaster.

The Man Down star is being joined by Canadian comedienne Katherine Ryan in the line up for the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre show on Monday, June 8.

Hosted by the city's Central Youth Theatre, the gala was first held last year in a bid to raise badly-needed funds for the group in the wake of cuts.

It is returning with the show organised by former youth theatre member Tom Parry, one third of BBC3 sketch group Pappy's, who will also be appearing.

He also promises a special surprise guest as part of the gala which will be hosted again by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson.

Also on the bill is Welsh comic Elis James and comedy duo Lazy Susan featuring former youth theatre member Celeste Dring.

Mr Parry said: "We are really grateful to Greg Davies for joining our line up. He hasn't appeared on stage for 18 months, so we are sure there are plenty of comedy fans out there who will be overjoyed to get the opportunity to see him perform live."

Tickets are on sale at the Grand Theatre box office on 01902 429212 priced at £21/£16 concessions.

Grateful to Greg for joining our Gala line up

Curious incident is at the Hippodrome

THE National Theatre's acclaimed and innovative production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, about a teenaged boy with autism who turns detective after a pet is killed, is at Birmingham Hippodrome this week, staged until Saturday, June 6.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company bring *The Complete History of Comedy (Abridged)* to Wolverhampton Grand tonight and Claire Sweeney stars in new comedy about the dating game, *Sex In Suburbia*, on Sunday. Other one-nighters at the Grand include *The Blues Brothers Experience* tomorrow and *Stephen Triffitt in Frankly Sinatra* on Saturday.

Siege in Bethlehem inspires play at Rep

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre is hosting hard-hitting drama at its small venue The Door.

The Pyramid Texts is a monologue from an ageing boxer, written by Geoff Thompson and performed by Christopher Fairbank until Saturday. The Siege, in Arabic and English with surtitles, by The Freedom Theatre of Palestine is staged from June 4 to 6. It is drawn from an incident in May 2002 when armed men sought sanctuary from the Israeli Army in the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. Caught up in the siege were hundreds of priests, nuns and tourists. Call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Ballet version of doomed love affair

AWARD-WINNING Northern Ballet are coming to Wolverhampton to perform three productions at the Grand Theatre.

On Tuesday and Wednesday they stage *Madame Butterfly* in a double bill with *Perpetuum Mobile*. The former is the story of a doomed love affair, music by Puccini and choreographed by the company's artistic director David Nixon OBE. The latter choreographed by Christopher Hampson, of Scottish Ballet, is an athletic 17-minute piece to music by Bach. On Wednesday at 12.30 and 2.15pm they perform 40-minute children's ballet *Elves and the Shoemaker*. Call the box office on 01902 429212.



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Masterpiece from an old master — Rembrandt's The Night Watch at the Rijksmuseum



Exploring Vincent Van Gogh's art in Amsterdam



Bloemenmarkt — the floating market on the Singel canal in the Dutch capital



Amsterdam has more waterways than Brum or Venice

It's still A'dam fine city

IT is Birmingham's boast that it has more canals than Venice, 35 miles' worth compared with 26.

However, Amsterdam beats them both put together with 65 miles of waterways coiled around the centre of the Dutch capital.

Walking the streets flanking those canals is one of the great pleasures of a city break to Amsterdam. The grand trio of canals — Herengracht, Keizergracht and Prinsengracht have tall thin gabled buildings, most dating from Holland's golden age in the 17th century when these were the homes and warehouses of rich merchants.

You can spend days wandering these watery thoroughfares, popping into cosy dark-wood cafes, trying nibbles at the ubiquitous cheese shops, rooting through the vintage clothes shops and getting the odd herbal whiff from the many coffee shops (or should we call them joints).

When the sun goes down the night life and thriving restaurant scene kicks in.

By Leon Burakowski

That's the perfect time to sip a Dutch gin (genever) at bars such as the atmospheric Admiraal, where the furniture is made out of old barrels.

Foodywise, Amsterdam has the lot, having been the port of a mighty trading nation. There are excellent Italian eateries, Indonesian and Thai places and an infeasible number of sugar-coated waffle shops. For the ultimate Dutch street food — besides a slippery herring — go to Vlaams Friteshuis Vleminckx. Only open in the afternoon, this hatch in the wall sells piping hot cones of delicious frites (chips), available with various tangy mayonnaises.

The Red Light District, located between tacky central main drag Damrak and Chinatown, can be avoided if you are offended by the women in the windows and the X-rated shops.

Places that you shouldn't miss include the floating flower market Bloemenmarkt on the Singel canal, near to the main shop-

ping street of Kalverstraat. When you tire of dodging cyclists, the enclosed haven-like Begijnhof is found through a modest door on Spui square. This former home for religious women includes the city's oldest buildings and the historic English Reformed Church.

Art lovers should head for Rijksmuseum for the city's greatest galleries. The Van Gogh Museum includes hundreds of works by the tragic genius, including double sided works from when the hard-up artist could not afford to use only one side of a canvas. His swirling colourful art remains magical and the museum does a great job of walking visitors through his too-short life.

Iconic

The revamped and restored Rijksmuseum is a work of art in itself, a hugely impressive building that contains iconic works by Dutch greats Rembrandt and Vermeer.

Both museums are always very busy and should be booked in advance online to avoid queues, as should the city's most popular — and most sobering — attraction, the Anne

Frank House. This hiding place for Jewish families during the Second World War, including the teenage girl whose diary went on to touch the hearts of millions, is tiny and timed tickets help limit crowding. In Anne's room, her cut-out pictures of movie stars are still on the walls.

The excellent museum beside the secret annexe stresses that Anne was one victim among millions. Despite the queues and crowds, it should not be missed.

Major savings can be made on many admissions and public transport (including trams) by purchasing an I Amsterdam City Card. See www.i-amsterdam.com for details.

For reading, I recommend *Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City* by Russell Shorto; the story of the architectural rebirth of the Rijksmuseum is told in the handsomely illustrated *Rijksmuseum: The Building, the Collection and the Outdoor Gallery* by Cees de Jong & Patrick Spijkerman; *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton is an atmospheric novel set during Amsterdam's golden age.

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CHOICE



Arsene Wenger

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30** The Box, (R) **12.00 BBC News:** Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.** **1.00 Gary Lineker** on the Road to FA Cup Glory. (R) **2.05 FA Cup TOTP2.** **2.30 Pointless Celebrities.** (R) **3.25 FA Cup:** The Road to Wembley. (R) **3.55 MOTD Live:** FA Cup Final Build-Up. A look ahead to the 13th staging of the showpiece encounter. **5.15 MOTD Live:** The FA Cup. Arsenal v Aston Villa (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.50 BBC News.**

8.00 Regional Programme.

8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Following last week's Eurovision special, Nick Knowles returns with the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers battle it out by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the live Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin.

8.55 Casualty. Marcus, a young, talented skater, gets mixed up with the wrong crowd and ends up robbing an arcade run by the unscrupulous proprietor Keong. When the situation escalates, a skate-shop owner tries to stop the incident coming to a tragic end. Meanwhile, in the Emergency Department, Charlie worries about Louis's wellbeing following his return from Romania, and Lily helps a young woman – who happens to be one of Keong's employees – escape a difficult situation involving a wager placed on her ailing mother's odds of survival by her decidedly dodgy boss.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. New series. An evening of entertainment at the Hackney Empire theater in London, featuring performances by Paul Weller, Bardyman, Trevor Noah, James Acaster and Felicity Ward.

10.30 BBC News: Weather. **10.50 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Arsenal v Aston Villa. Highlights of the final at Wembley Stadium; National Lottery Update.

11.25 Film: *Shanghai Noon*. (2000) Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15**

BBC2

6.05 Film: *Battle Cry*. (1955) **8.30 FA Cup Rewind: Classic Finals.** **9.30 MOTD Kickabout:** FA Cup Final. **10.00 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments.** (R) **10.20 Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial.** (R) **1.00 James Martin's Food Map of Britain.** (R) **1.10 Hitch.** (R) **2.10 Living Famously.** (R) **3.10 Film:** *Rear Window*. (1954) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **5.00 Flug It!** (R)

6.00 Gardeners' World. Joe Swift meets a florist in Surrey who has perfected the art of kokedama – a modern take on the hanging basket. Plus, a visit to South Africa to learn more about the Cape primrose. (R)

6.30 Britain's Greatest Generation. A look at individuals who played their part in creating a more culturally diverse post-war Britain, including Earl Cameron, George Montague and Brian Rix. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Edwardian Farm. Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman try to turn Morewillham Quay in Devon back to its Edwardian heyday, beginning by setting up home in a cottage. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon have their hands full with two German prisoners and the arrival of a suspicious Polish captain. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

9.00 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon.

10.35 The Many Faces of Dame Judi Dench. Charting the Oscar-winning actress's rise to fame, including a clip of an early TV appearance in Z Cars, and exploring how she achieved success on the small screen and in film. (R)

11.35 Film: *The Shipping News*. (2001) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore and Judi Dench.

1.20 Film: *Comfort and Joy*. (1984) **3.00**

ITV

6.00 CITV: *Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.* **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Super 4.** (R) **7.45 Nerds & Monsters.** (R)

8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.15 ITV News:** Weather. **12.40 Doc Martin.** (R) **4.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **2.40 Film:** *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **5.40 You've Been Framed!** (R)

6.05 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.15 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 The Magic Show Story. Stephen Mulhern, himself an active member of the Magic Circle, embarks on an exploration of 60 years of illusions as he celebrates the art of the TV magician. Along the way, he speaks to performers past and present, including Darcy Oake, Paul Daniels, Anita Harris and Penn & Teller; he recalls headlining grabbing stunts that caught the public's imagination, including Dynamo levitating above London's Shard, and David Blaine's ice prison. He also reveals how ground-breaking performers such as David Nixon and Tommy Cooper were among the first to bring magic to the masses via the medium of TV, and investigates how the typical illusionist has transformed from the tuxedoed man pulling a rabbit from his hat, into the hip, young street magicians now finding fame in a new millennium.

7.30 Ninja Warrior UK. The grand final of the contest, in which the most successful contestants must ascend Mount Midoriyama one last time before the UK's first Ninja Warrior is named. Last in the series.

8.30 Film: *The Amazing Spider-Man*. (2012) Premiere. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield and Rhys Ifans.

11.10 ITV News: Weather.

11.25 Film: *TF: Closer to the Edge*. (2011) Documentary following the annual Tourist Trophy motorcycle race held on the Isle of Man, which carries a reputation for danger, with riders frequently being killed.

1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.05 Transvolcanica Ultra Marathon.** **7.30 Superbike World Championship.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.25 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** (R) **1.25 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Haydock Park, York and Newmarket.

4.15 Film: *Pride and Prejudice*. (2005) Period drama, starring Keira Knightley.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Inside Jaguar: Making a Million Pound Car. Mark Evans follows the creation of the Lightweight E-type, the manufacturer's most expensive car ever, finding out exactly what goes into building a vehicle fit for a millionaire. Plans were made for 18 of the cars to be built back in 1963, but only 12 were ever produced – and now another six are being put together by specialist engineers to finally finish the project. However, the presenter discovers that not everyone is happy with the situation. (R)

8.00 Walking Through History: Wigan Pier. Tony Robinson embarks on a towpath exploration of industrial engineering along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, tracing the story of its chaotic construction. (R)

9.00 Film: *The Woman in Black*. (2012) A lawyer tormented by the death of his wife is sent to a remote village to investigate deceased client Alice Drabillon's affairs in order. The locals are suspicious of outsiders and determined to keep the area's tragic history a secret, and the late Mrs Drabillon's isolated house seems to be haunted by a vengeful spirit that seems hell-bent on redressing a decades-past grievance. Horror, based on Susan Hill's novel, with Daniel Radcliffe and Ciaran Hinds.

10.55 Film: *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*. (2008) Paranormal investigators Mulder and Scully come out of hiding to help the FBI investigate sinister experiments.

11.00 Jimmy Carr: Telling Jokes. (R) **1.55 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.05 Grand Designs Australia.** (R) **5.00 Phil: Secret Agent**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.35 Chinese Food in Minutes.** **10.50 The Hotel Inspector:** Abroad. (R) **11.50 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **12.45 Film:** *Corrina, Corrina*. (1994) Family drama set in the 1950s, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **3.00 Film:** *Columbo: Murder, Smoke and Shadows*. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.05 Film:** *Columbo: Dagger of the Mind*. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Honor Blackman.

6.50 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Highlights of the second day in the second Test of the two-match series, which takes place at Headingley. England have been on a downward spiral in this format of the game after reaching the summit of the ICC Test rankings several years ago, and entered this series as the fifth-ranked nation, which is in contrast to New Zealand, who recently rose to third and were looking to continue their good form. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also comments alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

8.00 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. Dave Spikey and Zoe Lyons introduce another compilation of internet clips with this edition featuring stir-crazy hamsters, tortoises with attitude problems, foul-mouthed parrots and a water-skating squirrel. There are also clips of a pet pig that is an Instagram star, and a cat who caused an online sensation when its owner discovered its nose worked as a remote control for the bedside lamp. (R)

9.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Friday's highlights, including housemates' reactions to the latest eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants – and whether the outcome of the public vote has anyone else fearing for their place in the competition.

10.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2014. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year, from Solange Knowles attacking Jay-Z in a lift to Russell Brand's attempt to start a revolution. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10 Big Brother: Timebomb.** (R) **4.00 Furious & Funny:** (2011) **1.20 No Country for Old Men**

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear **8.00 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments.** **10.00 Happy Valley** **11.00 Family Guy** **1.15 Murder in Successville** **1.45 Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment.** **2.15 Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents** **3.15 Russell Howard's Good News** **3.45**

BBC Four

7.00 Blue Note: A Story of Modern Jazz **8.30 Jazz 625:** The Dave Brubeck Quartet **9.00 1964 11.00 Kenny Rogers: Cards on the Table** **12.00 Country Queens at the BBC** **1.00 Top of the Pops:** **1980 1.40 Bullseyes and Beer – When Darts Hit Britain:** **2.40 Timeshift:** The Golden Age of Coach Travel **3.40 ITV2**

11.55 Film: *The Little Vampire* (2000) **1.50 Mr Bean 2.55 Total Bankers** **2.00 Britain's Got Talent 3.20 Britain's Got Talent 4.45 Britain's Got Talent** **Results 5.25 Jurassic Park** (1993) **8.15 Film:** *Something Borrowed* (2011) **10.15 Film:** *Troy* (2004) **1.25 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 1.55 Crazy Beaches 2.40 The Hot Desk: Kelly Clarkson 2.50 Teleshopping** **5.00 ITV2 Nightscreen**

ITV3

12.05 Film: *Housesitter* (1992) **2.10 Wycliffe 3.15 Film:** *Columbo: Double Exposure* (1973) **4.50 Lewis 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Foyle's War** **10.00 Inspector Wexford** **11.40 Wire in the Blood** **12.45 Ghostboat 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping**

ITV4 **9.00 Film:** *The Dead Pool* (1988) Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood. **10.55 Premiership Rugby Union** **11.55 Film:** *Mortal Kombat* (1995) **2.00 Minder 3.00 Teleshopping**

E4

11.00 New Girl **12.00 Melissa & Joey** **1.00 The Goldbergs** **2.00 How I Met Your Mother** **3.00 Film:** *17 Again* (2009) **5.00 Made in Chelsea** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film:** *Haywire* (2011) **10.50 Googlebox** **12.55 The Big Bang Theory** **2.25 2 Broke Girls** **2.50 How I Met Your Mother** **3.00 Days of Engagement** **4.20 New Girl** **4.45 Melissa & Joey** **5.10 Make It or Break It**

Film4

11.00 Marmaduke (2010) **1.00 Home Alone 3** (1997) **3.05 Ice Age** (2002) **4.40 Mirror Mirror** (2012) **6.50 Mirror Impossible** (1996) **9.00 Star Trek** (2009) **11.30 Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance** (2011) **1.20 No Country for Old Men**

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CHOICE

BBC1



Fiona Bruce

Antiques Roadshow

BBC1, 8pm

Fiona Bruce and the team visit Ashton Court in Bristol, where they examine a piece of street art by Banksy in a local doorway. Expert Rupert Maas reveals the difficulty of valuing graffiti by an artist whose identity is a closely guarded secret. Other finds include a 19th-century automaton that can smoke a cigarette, a nautilus shell engraved with a picture of the city's suspension bridge, a globe clock that provides a surprise to its owner and a posset pot that may have origins closer to home than expected.

- 6.00 Breakfast. 8.25 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 VE Day 70: A Party to Remember. (R) 3.10 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.40 Flip It! 4.25 Regional Programme. 4.45 Points of View. 5.10 Songs of Praise. 5.45 Pointless Celebrities. (R)
- 6.35 BBC News.
- 6.50 Regional Programme.
- 7.00 Countryfile. The team visits the Channel Islands, where Matt Baker investigates the legacy of naturalist Gerald Durrell. Ellie Harrison helps out with an unusual habitat restoration on the site of an old holiday camp and discovers Guernsey's history of tomato growing. John Craven visits a cream dairy on Sark. Charlotte Smith finds out about a resilient weed and Adam Henson encounters woolly pigs. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Ashton Court in Bristol, where they examine a piece of street art by Banksy in a local doorway. Expert Rupert Maas reveals the difficulty of valuing graffiti by an artist whose identity is a closely guarded secret. Other finds include a 19th-century automaton that can smoke a cigarette, a nautilus shell engraved with a picture of the city's suspension bridge, a globe clock that provides a surprise to its owner and a posset pot that may have origins closer to home than expected.
- 9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. Strange arrives in Spain to show Lord Wellington how he might use his magical talents to fight the Napoleonic armies, while Mr Norrell battles to keep his secrets hidden.
- 10.00 BBC News.
- 10.20 Regional Programme.
- 10.30 Live at the Apollo. Danny Bhoy hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Miles Jupp and Lee Nelson. (R)
- 11.15 Film: Buried. (2010) Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.
- 12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

- 6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 6.30 FA Cup Rewind: Classic Finals. 7.30 Countryfile. (R) 8.30 Gardeners' World. 9.00 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.00 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) 11.30 Live Rowing. 1.50 Athletics. 2.50 Live Triathlon: The ITU World Triathlon Series meeting from Hyde Park, London.
- 6.00 Hotel India. The Taj Mahal Palace's deputy general manager Parveen oversees Christie's first-ever auction of Indian art in its country of origin – and the hope is that Mumbai's super-rich will break a world sales record.
- Conierge Style: guests attend to luxury guests Pauline and Suzie Noble, who have shipped their vintage Lanchester car from Essex to tour the subcontinent, while musician and composer Anoushka Shankar returns to the hotel where her father Ravi first taught George Harrison of the Beatles to play the sitar. (R)

- 7.00 A Very British Airline. Operations manager Kevin Mackenzie discusses the challenges of working out of Heathrow and two trainee airline pilots reach the end of their course. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. A Hull estate is evacuated so the city's tallest building can be demolished, and Debbie Burns takes on a £750million renovation project at Birmingham New Street. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Armada – 12 Days to Save England. Dan Snow tells the story of the naval battle in 1588 that could have led to the conquest of Britain, and examines how the prospect of invasion affected Elizabeth I's royal court.
- 10.00 Rev. Alex gives birth in dramatic circumstances, and Adam teams up with a local Imam to help save a playground. Comedy, starring Tom Hollander and Olivia Colman. (R)
- 10.30 Sir Stanley Matthews: The Wizard of Wembley. Documentary about the 1953 FA Cup Final between Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers, in which Stanley Matthews sealed his reputation as one of England's greatest ever footballers.
- 11.00 Film: Frost/Nixon. (2008) Drama, starring Frank Langella.
- 12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.15

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Carnivals. (R) 7.15 Sooey. (R) 7.30 Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 11.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 12.25 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 The Unforgettable Franklin Howard. (R) 1.15 Family Junior. (1994) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. 3.15 Midsummer Murders. (R) 3.15 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 6.15 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather.
- 6.40 Celebrity Squares. Life's Too Short star Warwick Davis hosts a revival of the classic game show originally presented by Bob Monkhouse. Jimmy Carr is in the centre square, with Tracy-Anne Oberman, Matt Forde, Sarah-Jane Crawford, Marek Larwood, Joe Swash and Kerr Godliman joining regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the celebrity grid this week.

- 7.30 Britain's Got Talent Final. Ant and Dec host the conclusion of this year's talent search, as the last few acts to make it through the previous week's five semi-finals perform once more. Judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon. It's then over to the British public, as viewers' votes decide who should be this year's champion, winning a prize of £250,000 and a chance to perform in this year's Royal Variety Show. Last in the series.
- 10.00 ITV News; Weather.
- 10.15 The Nation's Favourite Queen. Since the legendary rock band's 20 greatest hits, as decided by the public, featuring interviews with Brian May, Roger Taylor and celebrity fans. Matt Lucas narrates. (R)
- 11.40 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Flatman is joined by David Flatman to present highlights of the Premiership final from Twickenham, where this year's champions were decided.
- 12.30 The Store. Home shopping. 2.30 Motorsport UK. High-speed coverage from around the country. 3.20 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences

CHANNEL 4

- 6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.45 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.10 Caterham Motorsport. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 Film: Tooth Fairy. (2010) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. 4.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.30 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.

- 7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. Speed freak Guy Martin embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power, by building the world's fastest human-powered aircraft. He heads to Southampton University where, in 1961, Derek Piggott became the first man to fly under his own power. Guy teams up with a group of engineers from the same university to build a plane that Guy will ride like a bicycle – will he manage to fly into the record books? (R)

- 8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip and Ant take a 100-mile road trip from Bristol to the Devonshire coast in a VW camper van, and reveal how motoring was revolutionised by the air-conditioned engined used in this vehicle and several other iconic cars. Along the way, they meet a car collector who owns seven Citroën 2CVs and come to the aid of a driver who wants their help restoring his treasured VW Beetle so it can be sold at auction.

- 9.00 Film: Shutter Island. (2010) Crime on 5. England v New Zealand. Highlights of the third day in the second Test of the two-match series, which takes place at Headingley, Yorkshire opener Adam Lyth will be hoping to put in a good performance in front of his home crowd after making his England debut in the First Test, while his county teammates Gary Ballance and Joe Root will also look to impress. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

- 9.00 Film: Joe Kidd. (1972) A bounty hunter is asked to capture a Mexican rebel, and accepts the job after the outlaw's men attack his own ranch. But when he witnesses the cruel methods used by his employer, he resolves to bring the fugitive to a fair trial rather than let him face rough justice. Western, starring Clint Eastwood, Robert Duvall and John Saxon. Edited for language and violence.

- 9.50 5 News Weekend.
- 10.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, diary room visits and chit-chat in the aftermath of the recent eviction.

- 11.00 Film: In Time. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, with Justin Timberlake.

- 1.05 SuperCasino. 3.10 Gotham. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.35 Pip Ahoy! 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Mio Mao. (R) 7.00 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.15 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.20 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.45 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.15 Olly the Little White Van. (R) 8.20 Zack and Quack. (R) 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.00 Lazytown. (R) 9.30 Dora and Friends. (R) 10.00 Teletubbies. (R) 10.35 Acrobats. (R) 10.45 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 11.45 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 12.45 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 1.45 Film: See Spot Run. (2001) Comedy adventure, starring Will Ferrell. 5.25 Film: Robin Hood. (1973) Disney animation, with the voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter Ustinov.

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- 9.00 Film: Joe Kidd. (1972) A bounty hunter is asked to capture a Mexican rebel, and accepts the job after the outlaw's men attack his own ranch. But when he witnesses the cruel methods used by his employer, he resolves to bring the fugitive to a fair trial rather than let him face rough justice. Western, starring Clint Eastwood, Robert Duvall and John Saxon. Edited for language and violence.

- 9.50 5 News Weekend.
- 10.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, diary room visits and chit-chat in the aftermath of the recent eviction.

- 11.00 Film: In Time. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, with Justin Timberlake.

- 1.05 SuperCasino. 3.10 Gotham. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear 8.05 Don't Tell the Bride 9.00 Film: Leave to Remain (2013)
10.30 Family Guy 11.15 American Dad!
11.35 Family Guy 12.00 Murder in Successville 12.30 Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents 1.30 Russell Howard's Good News 2.00 Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment 2.30 Murder in Successville 3.00 Don't Tell the Bride 4.00 Close

- BBC Four
7.00 Benjamin Britten on Camera 8.00 Nature's Great Events 10.00 Metamorphosis – The Science of Change

- 11.00 BB King – The Life of Riley 12.40 When Puled Ruled My Life: The Fans' Story 1.40 I'm in a Bay Band! 2.40 Jazz Divas Gold 3.40 Close

- ITV
11.55 Take Me Out 1.10 Take Me Out – The Goss 1.50 Film: Kangaroo Jack (2008) 3.35 Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) 5.20 Film: Friday Friday (2003) 7.25 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) 10.00 Britain's Got More Talent 11.00 Film: The Fast and the Furious (2001) 1.10 Crazy Beaches 1.35 Viral Tap 2.10 Teleshopping 5.40 ITV2 Nightscreen

- ITV3
12.25 Inspector Morse 2.40 Film: The Nun's Story (1959) 6.40 Inspector Morse 8.00 Lewis 10.00 A Touch of Frost 12.10 Film: The Pianist (2002) 2.50 Ghostboat 4.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 4.05 Emmerdale

- ITV4
9.00 Cycling: Tour Series 10.00 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) 12.10 Film: The Damned (1995) 2.15 Nitro Circus 2.40 Movies 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

- E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea 1.00 New Girl 2.00 I Met You Mother 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 Film: Clueless (1995) 6.55 The Big Bang Theory 10.00 Gogglebox 12.05 The Big Bang Theory 1.30 Brooklyn Nine 2.00 Rude Tube 2.55 Virtually Famous 3.30 The Cleveland Show 3.50 Hollywoods

- Film4
11.00 Warlords of Atlantis (1978) 1.00 First Daughter (2004) 3.10 A Monster in Paris (2011) 5.05 The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) 6.55 Terminal Velocity (1994) 9.00 Byzantium (2012) Vampire horror, with Gemma Arterton and Saoirse Ronan. 11.20 Shell (2012) Drama starring Chloe Pirrie. 1.10 The General's

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Carry On Cruising, ITV, 11.40pm

The captain of a cruise ship bound for the Mediterranean is less than impressed when five of his regular shipmates are replaced at the last minute. Despite their best efforts to earn his respect and an eagerness to please, the new recruits seem doomed to cause chaos whatever they do. Comedy, starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Liz Fraser and Kenneth Connor. (1962)

TUESDAY

White Oleander, BBC1, 11.35pm

A 15-year-old girl's happy life is thrown into upheaval when her mother is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her lover. Astrid spends the rest of her adolescence drifting from one foster home to another, but her mother remains a constant influence in her life. Drama based on Janet Fitch's novel, starring Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Renée Zellweger, Robin Wright and Billy Connolly. (2002)



Eagle Eye, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY

Eagle Eye, BBC1, 11.15pm

Two strangers find themselves on the run from the authorities when they receive mysterious phone calls informing them their lives are in danger. They are forced to follow the instructions of a woman who is tracking their every move, while at the same time trying to discover who is behind the conspiracy. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan, Rosario Dawson and Michael Chiklis. (2008)

THURSDAY

Hannah's Law, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A female bounty hunter goes in search of the outlaws who killed her parents, assisted by a young Wyatt Earp. Western, with Sara Canning and John Pyper-Ferguson. (2012)

FRIDAY

Music and Lyrics, ITV, 10.40pm

A washed-up pop idol seeks the help of the woman who looks after his plants to write a song for a teenage music star. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Drew Barrymore, Brad Garret and Kristen Johnston. (2007)

Series proves it still has a winning formula

While The X Factor may appear to be on borrowed time, some people are saying the show's creator Simon Cowell is losing his golden touch.

And the likes of Red or Black? and Grease Is the Word were hardly as successful as that Idol, X Factor and Got Talent franchise, were they?

Nevertheless, the latter of that smash-hit TV trio continues to go from strength to strength.

It has now spawned spin-offs in over 50 countries and the British incarnation still looks just as fresh and exciting as it did when it made its debut back in 2007.

Tonight, the curtain falls on the ninth series of the talent search, and it has been one of the best so far, with a plethora of rough showbiz diamonds taking their chance to sparkle.

As well as the usual deluded talents performing being given their 15 (well two) minutes of fame, and providing Ant and Dec with priceless comedy material, over the last eight weeks viewers have witnessed some remarkable acts taking to the stage.

Among those who have beat the buzzer and got the magic four yeses were a group of dads dancing to hip-hop music, a contortionist from Essex, a Russian trampoline artist, a burlesque dance troupe from Hull, and a comedy hypnotist with a pet dog.

Although these acts have added variety, it seems most of the major contenders for the prize of £250,000 and the chance to perform at this year's Royal Variety Show will once again be singers and dancers.

Crooner Calum Scott, who was the beneficiary of Cowell's Golden Buzzer, and Siberian shadow dance sensations UDI were the front runners with the bookies before last week's semi-finals got underway.

They were closely followed by Revelation Avenue, choir Cor Glenaethwy, operatic singer Emma Jones and five-piece London dance act, Boyband. However, don't be surprised if there's an upset tonight.

After all, Scottish singer Susan Boyle was a massive odd-on favourite back in 2009, and ended up losing out to dance group Diversity.

Boyle has proved to be somewhat of an anomaly in the show, as she's arguably the only runner-up who has managed to carve out a lucrative post-BGT career.

So with the success of this series, will the awesome foursome of Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon be back for the show's 10th-anniversary run next year?

There have been rumours that Walliams may be about to quit the panel, but in a recent interview with Radio Times, the comedian seems quite happy with his role, and was still revelling in the fact that he was voted the public's Favourite Judge at the National Television Awards in February.

Nevertheless, despite Walliams' NTA award and the struggles of the X Factor, the show's creator Cowell is in no doubt who is still the main man.

"Mine is the opinion people want to hear," he boasts.

"It's annoying but true." Walliams adds.

And with the ongoing success of BGT, who can argue?



Ant and Dec host Britain's Got Talent Final, Sunday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Man Down

Channel 4, 10pm

Greg Davies' wonderfully silly sitcom returns for a new series. The last time we saw his alter ego, Dan, he was coming to terms with his father's death in a well-received Christmas special that managed to raise a smile while providing a tribute to the man who played the crazy patriarch, Rita Mayall. Despite his absence from the series, Mayall continues to loom large, as Dan spends much of this run attempting to step from out of his dad's shadow and finally grow up – a task which is far easier said than done for a forty-something with the mental age younger than that of the children he teaches. Meanwhile, his friends Jo and Brian are otherwise occupied with mysterious projects of their own.

TUESDAY

The Syndicate

BBC1, 9pm

New series. The return of Kay Mellor's drama, this time following the staff at a Scarborough manor house whose numbers come up on the lottery – making them instantly richer than the family they serve 'upstairs'. It's all hands on deck at Hazlewood Manor in preparation for the annual shoot, although with the Lord's health failing and debts rising, the

workers are struggling to keep up appearances on a shoestring budget. The future of the house might be in jeopardy, but gardener Godfrey isn't too worried – he has been working on his lottery formula for years and he thinks he has finally cracked it.

The Secret Life of Your House

ITV, 9pm

Viewers may need a strong stomach for this documentary in which George McGavin infests a house with thousands of animals normally thought of as pests in an experiment designed to give an insight into the ecology that exists under people's noses. After introducing creatures such as spiders, mice and cockroaches to the property, George, who even sleeps between bug-infested sheets for the night, lets them loose for a month to find out what they get up to.

WEDNESDAY

Long Lost Family

ITV, 9pm

Hankies at the ready – Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell are back with the most tear-jerking show on the telly, as they reunite more people with long-lost loved ones. Among tonight's lucky and

emotional beneficiaries are Susan and Chris, who were childhood sweethearts in 1962 when they discovered they were expecting their first child. Too young to care for the baby themselves, their parents stepped in and arranged for their son to be adopted. Now, having just celebrated their 50th

wedding anniversary, they are hoping to find him. Meanwhile, in Poole, Dorset, former soldier Paul Wright reveals how he was forced to leave his girlfriend and baby daughter in West Germany when he was posted back to the UK in 1985. Eventually losing touch with his family, he now wants to meet up with his daughter and explain the reasons for his decision.

THURSDAY

Dementiville

Channel 4, 9pm

It's been predicted that in the future, one in three people in the UK will be affected by dementia. Yet despite this, it remains a complex disease with no known cure. This new three-part series aims to offer an



Man Down, Monday, Channel 4, 10pm

insight into the illness by exploring the idea of memory, and also looking at how different people deal with it. The first edition visits Poppy Lodge, a care home which takes a controversial approach to dementia. As the condition frequently destroys recent memories while leaving some older ones intact, the staff have decided that rather than trying to bring the residents back to reality, they will instead help them embrace their own perceptions by recreating moments from their past.

FRIDAY
Holy Grail Conspiracy: Secrets of the Knights Templar
Channel 5, 8pm

This fascinating series, which explores some of the events depicted in the Bible and tries to work out whether they could really have happened, concludes with an insight into one of the most secret societies ever formed – the Knights Templar. Hugely powerful during the Middle Ages, it is said to have owned the Holy Grail, know Christ's bloodline, have discovered the New World a century before Columbus and carried out numerous good works while promoting religious faith. But, as this programme reveals, after falling foul of France's King Philip IV in the 14th century, the Templars were declared to be devil-worshippers and shunned.

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Omega

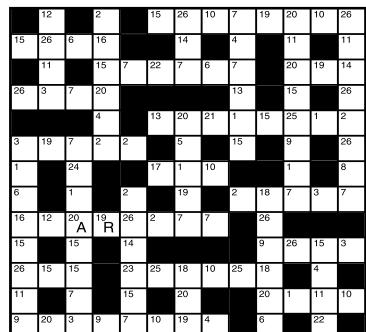
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BRAIN GYM No.327

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

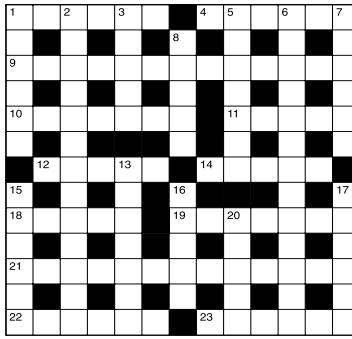
D	I	O	Y	W	K	M	G	S	U	R	E	T
Z	H	A	F	J	X	C	V	N	P	Q	L	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues: Across

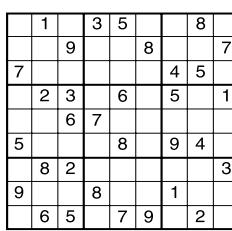
- Be in a hurry and waddle around (6)
- To reveal hesitation spells downfall (6)
- Telephone for legal aid? (4,3,6)
- It's obvious I'd enter the contest (7)
- Put oil on an eel that has been prepared (5)
- A trap set outside a second time (5)
- New lamps put into service (5)
- Game many take to (5)
- One illness after another (7)
- A tree leaning over a ramp, perhaps (8,5)
- Stop in a crooked side street (6)
- Fresh petals set out on the table (6)
- Clipped at the quayside (6)
- They support the game, perhaps (7,6)
- Turner writes articles (5)
- Not the sort of water-pipes common in most houses (7)
- It's thick-skinned, colourless and unwanted (5,8)
- Staggered, but got in line (6)
- He's around at the preliminary races (5)
- Examples of the more subtle type of humour that is found in clubs (7)
- Fighting together and all about to die (6)
- There may be a catch in it (5)
- People mending piping? (6)
- Part of a jacket to copy in a fifty-fifty arrangement (5)



Quick Clues: Across

- Trifling (6)
- Boon (6)
- Arrogance (13)
- Tackle (7)
- Follow (5)
- Move quickly (5)
- Composition (5)
- Scope (5)
- Three-pronged spear (7)
- Uneasiness (13)
- Stable (6)
- Figurine (6)
- Health (6)
- Plain; 9 Tug; 10 Leastwise; 11 Garage; 12 Relief; 15 Treatment; 17 Air; 18 Earth; 19 Oute; 21 Prophet of woe; Down: 4 Come together; 2 Lob; 5 Sorrow; 6 Capital; 8 Kite; 9 Heaven; 10 Grace; 7 Eager; 10 Lightship; 13 Inane; 14 Become; 16 Error; 20 Too; QUICK - Across: 1 Make the grade; 7 Light; 8 Grain; 9 Inn; 10 Virulence; 11 Ground; 12 Oute; 15 Mortality; 17 Puff; 18 Learner; 19 Ent; 21 Entertainment; Down: 1 Marigold; 2 Tag; 3 Entre; 4 Regularly; 5 Drain; 6 Unreasonable; 7 Lento; 10 Vengeance; 13 Empty; 14 Direct; 16 Stain; 20 Rub.

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

5	7	6	1	8	4	3	9	2
9	8	6	4	3	5	7	1	5
1	2	3	7	6	8	9	4	6
7	2	1	8	6	4	5	1	3
6	8	5	3	2	7	9	1	4
4	3	7	9	1	2	8	6	5
7	5	2	4	3	6	8	9	1
3	6	9	1	8	2	7	4	5
8	1	7	5	9	3	6	2	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Candysticks; 7 Ember; 8 Plain; 9 Tug; 10 Leastwise; 11 Garage; 12 Relief; 15 Treatment; 17 Air; 18 Earth; 19 Oute; 21 Prophet of woe; Down: 4 Come together; 2 Lob; 5 Sorrow; 6 Capital; 8 Kite; 9 Heaven; 10 Grace; 7 Eager; 10 Lightship; 13 Inane; 14 Become; 16 Error; 20 Too; QUICK - Across: 1 Make the grade; 7 Light; 8 Grain; 9 Inn; 10 Virulence; 11 Ground; 12 Oute; 15 Mortality; 17 Puff; 18 Learner; 19 Ent; 21 Entertainment; Down: 1 Marigold; 2 Tag; 3 Entre; 4 Regularly; 5 Drain; 6 Unreasonable; 7 Lento; 10 Vengeance; 13 Empty; 14 Direct; 16 Stain; 20 Rub.

Quiz

- What is acrophobia?
- Who played Hannibal Lecter in The Silence of the Lambs?
- Who was the Roman God of wine?
- Which composer's last words were reputedly 'I shall hear in heaven'?
- Who was the arch rival of Dan Dare?
- What is the symbol of the element sodium?
- What is the capital of the Canadian province of British Columbia?
- In what year was the QEII launched?
- Which Old Testament book comes between Joshua and Ruth?
- In which U.S. city is Logan airport?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 45; 2 Chile; 3 Cauliflower; 4 Jubilee; 5 Lundy; 6 Forest of Arden; 7 Arno; 8 Bob Dylan; 9 Toto; 10 Mars.

Niner: POLYNESIA

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5637 gives a bird,
4128 gives an animal,
199 gives another animal.



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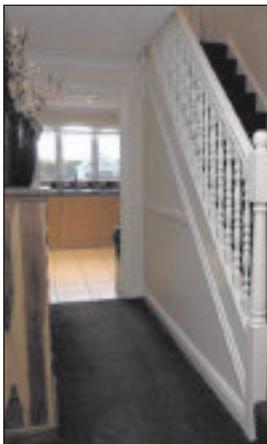
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THIS modern four-bedroomed detached property in Churchill Drive, Rowley Regis, has panoramic views to the rear.

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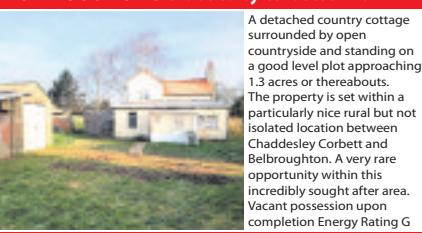
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Guide Price £300,000 - £350,000

A detached country cottage surrounded by open countryside and standing on a good level plot approaching 1.3 acres or thereabouts. The property is set within a particularly nice rural but not isolated location between Chaddesley Corbett and Belbroughton. A very rare opportunity within this incredibly sought after area. Vacant possession upon completion Energy Rating G

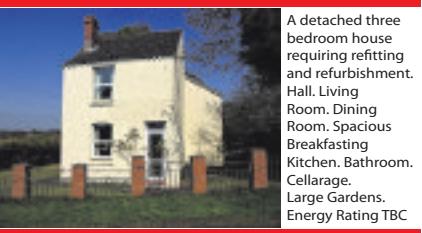
Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster DY10 2UT



Guide Price £85,000 - £105,000

A substantial traditional semi-detached house requiring modernisation and repair. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Gas to radiator central heating. Large Gardens. Energy Rating TBC

Low Hill Summerfield DY11 7RS



Guide Price £140,000 - £160,000

A detached three bedroom house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Spacious Breakfasting Kitchen. Bathroom. Cellarage. Large Gardens. Energy Rating TBC

Comberton Avenue, Kidderminster DY10 3EG



Guide Price £125,000 - £150,000

Substantial three bedroom detached house. Porch. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Workshop. Ground floor WC. Garage with pit. Family Bathroom. Detached Garage. Requires re-fitting and refurbishment. Energy Rating TBC

6pm Tuesday
2nd June 2015
at

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Guide Price £150,000 - £180,000

Spacious detached bungalow with attic space/occasional bedroom. Living Room. Breakfasting Kitchen. Wet Room. Two double Bedrooms. Side and main Porch. Garage. Private driveway. Fore & rear Gardens. Double glazed. Gas to radiator central heating. Energy Rating TBC

From strength to strength

Commercial feature

Local award-winning, family-run car dealership, T Wall Ford, continues going from strength to strength with the Ford brand.

With such jam-packed packages on offer across a wide range of stylish Ford cars, Wall's is sure it can find the perfect one for you.

The independent business is proud to have served motorists in the West Midlands for over 60 years, and with a fantastic range of Fords, used vehicles and an outstanding aftersales service, it's no wonder the dealership is looking to a bright future.

The business was founded by Derrick Grieveson in Worcester in the early 1950s – and operated under the name of Worcester Carsales. The dealership moved in 1963

to a new site in Hylton Road, Worcester, and 1973 saw Mr Grieveson's son and current managing director Stuart Grieveson join the family company. In the last 25 years the company has acquired many new car franchises dealerships in the West Midlands.

Over the last 60 years, the business has seen three generations of the Grieveson family enjoying working for the firm, and to date, three of Mr Grieveson's grandchildren work within the group.

Stuart Grieveson said: "We are a strong workforce with an excellent work ethic – and I'm delighted we are celebrating 60 years of service."

Efficiently

The service team ensures Ford vehicles are running smoothly and efficiently so that customers are worry-free when it comes to purchasing a new car. With competitive service rates, the team can help you take out a service plan to spread your costs over the year for a little as £12.99 a month.

Celebrated as being the UK's best-selling car of all time, the Ford Fiesta combines up-to-date technology with a range of fashionable colours and finishes, meaning it's perfectly on trend every season.

With Ford SYNC you can select a music track from USB or MP3/iPod, or stream it from your mobile via Bluetooth connectivity. The system enables you to make and receive calls using simple voice commands. Additionally, SYNC even reads your text messages aloud, and responds by using pre-selected commands, enabling you to stay connected to friends and family while on the move.

You won't have to stop for fuel too often either: the award-winning 1.0 EcoBoost petrol engine combines satisfying power with exceptional fuel-efficiency of up to 65.7 mpg.



'As well as being the UK's best-selling car of all time, the Ford Fiesta combines up-to-date technology with a range of fashionable colours.'

A range of innovative technologies will make your every drive safe, comfortable, entertaining and fun. And the car comes in a range of 12 striking colours.

Try the Fiesta for size: book a test drive. Or find out more about design, driving experience, performance and efficiency, and safety and security levels.

Motability

If you're eligible for the Government's Motability scheme, Ford makes it easy for you to find your perfect car.

You get to choose from a range of fantastic models.

Lee Paulton, sales manager said: "We are very proud to be able to offer motorists with disabilities the chance to drive away in a Ford vehicle that fully meets their mobility needs."

"Wall's works tirelessly to demonstrate our continued commitment to Motability and offers competitive pricing throughout."

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Fiesta range: urban 33.6-76.4 (8.4-3.7), extra urban 58.9-91.1 (4.8-3.1), combined 47.9-85.6 (5.9-3.3). Official CO₂ emissions 138-85g/km.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Trip down memory lane the Cavalier



This year sees Vauxhall celebrate the 40th anniversary of one of its most popular saloons – the Cavalier.

Produced over three generations, from 1975 until 1995, the successful model is heralded as the fifth most popular car ever sold in the UK, with over 1.8 million models being purchased during its production run.

With many having made an appearance on the roads around Stourbridge over the last four decades, local retailer, Stourbridge Motor House, is taking a trip down memory lane to remind residents of just how classic the Cavalier was.

In the same year that the comedy film Monty Python and the Holy Grail was released and the first episode of the popular sitcom Fawlty Towers was broadcast on TV, the original rear-wheel drive Vauxhall Cavalier went into production.

The Cavalier L offered a new level of refinement in a new medium-sized car and was available as a two-door and four-door saloon.

The model came onto the scene boasting an impressive interior: thick foam seats in cloth material; reclining front seats with inertia reel seatbelts; and easy-to-read instruments on the facia. It offered drivers of the time all the essentials: a heated rear window, two-speed wipers with electric speech wash, reverse lights, hazard warning flashes and fascia warning lights; all surrounded by soft carpeting.

On the outside, owners could appreciate the Cavalier L's aerodynamic styling, whilst experiencing its 1.6-litre engine and four-speed manual gearbox (with the option of an automatic), all housed on a 99in smooth wheel base with advanced front suspension. A 13.6 cubic foot boot completed the kit-list.

Foundation

One step above the Cavalier L base model was the GL (pictured above right), which offered all the luxury and comfort of the L, and more. Seats were upholstered in plush velour, and a wall-to-wall, rich tufted carpet was the foundation of its attractive interior. With a quartz-activated clock, illuminated cigar lighter, illuminated ashtray and illuminated glove box, drivers were fully accommodated. On the outside, black waist mouldings and styled sports wheels played host to a choice of a powerful 1.9-litre engine or an economical 1.6-litre engine.

Finally, the top-of-the-range Cavalier GL Coupe completed the trio of inaugural Cavalier trims.

Michael Casey, general manager at Stourbridge Motor House, said: "At the time, the GL was arguably one of the sportiest-looking Vauxhalls ever. With a soft-grip, four-spoke steering wheel; a driver's door map pocket; continental arm-rests; and wood veneer accents on the doors, it offered sophistication, style and comfort. Extra-wide tyres and extra-wide sports wheels added to the coupe's all-round smart styling, which was accented by a functional front-end spoiler and it roared proudly with its powerful 1.9-litre engine."

Some six years later and the MKII incarnation was created, this time in front-wheel drive. It offered class-leading levels of fuel economy and performance, which had previously been unthinkable for this sector of car.

It was Britain's second best-selling car in 1984 and 1985, and at its peak, came with the choice of 1.3 or 1.6-litre engines derived from the smaller Vauxhall Astra. There were also 1.8-litre and 2-litre versions, together with a diesel. Trim levels included Base, L, GL, SR, SRi, CDi, Convertible and Estate.

An interesting, fashion-themed quirk of the CD trim of the MKII version was door pockets that doubled-up as detachable handbags. The pockets were fastened to doors with press-studs, which could be swiftly removed and carried around by drivers and their passengers.

In 1988, the third and final version came to market, either as a front-wheel or four-wheel drive. The top model in range was the Turbo; there was also a V6 version too, which was popular with police forces at the time.

The MKIII version (pictured above right) remained in production until 1995, when after 20 years on sale in the UK, order books closed for good on the iconic car. It was later replaced by the Vauxhall Vectra in 1996.

It wasn't just the roads around Stourbridge that the Cavalier graced, however. In the British Touring Car race series from 1990 to 1995, the Cavalier scored a manufacturer's win in 1992 and again in 1995. It was during this latter year when the famous John Cleland also won the driver's title in the Vauxhall car.

Twenty years after this win, and four decades after the Cavalier came to be, the values of attention to detail, innovation, dedication to styling and attractive design are still at the core of Vauxhall's range of models today.

For details about latest vehicles in the Vauxhall range, please contact the team at Stourbridge Motor House at High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4DG. Alternatively, call 01384 447970 or go online to www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk



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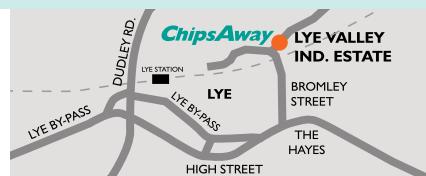


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DRIVETIME



Verso is upgraded for 2015

With its multitude of seating and storage configurations, the Toyota Verso has never wanted for variety, but the choice available to customers has been made even greater with the compact MPV gaining a new Trend Plus grade.

Its credentials as ideal family transport are strengthened by the addition of a rear seat DVD entertainment system as standard. The package includes neatly integrated seatback mounts with dual monitors for independent DVD playback, or, with appropriate accessories, computer gaming. Two wireless headsets are also provided. Customers can choose to add optional, powered iPad holders.

Recognising the popularity of so-

plicated in-car entertainment, Toyota is also offering the system as an option on Icon, Trend and Excel models in a variety of configurations, including permutations of master and slave DVD screens and single or double iPad docks.

Trend Plus models further benefit from leather upholstery for the front and second row seats and from the Toyota Touch 2 with Go touch-screen-controlled multimedia and connectivity system with integrated satellite navigation. The functions include DAB radio; advanced Bluetooth for hands-free phone use and music streaming; access to online functions for enhanced journey planning and information; and a reversing camera.

Other features, shared with the established Trend grade, include new-design 17in alloy wheels, front parking sensors, dual-zone air condi-

tioning, rear privacy glass, power windows, seven airbags, front fog lamps and fold-down seatback tables for second row passengers.

All Verso's powertrains comply with Euro 6 emissions standards. The options are a 1.6-litre petrol Valvematic unit with six-speed manual transmission; 1.8-litre Valvematic petrol with Multidrive S CVT; and 1.6-litre D-4D diesel with six-speed manual gearbox.

Further new features include a new design seven-spoke 16in alloy wheel design for Icon models and a new Tidal Blue metallic paint option. A space saver spare wheel is now standard on all models, except those specified with an optional panoramic roof.

The 2015 Toyota Verso is on sale now, priced from £17,770 for the five-seat Active model. Seven-seat models cost from £18,300 and the Trend Plus models start at £24,650.



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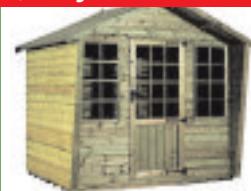
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GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate寻求 tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419

ANNE, mid 40s, cheerful busty curvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel No: 0906 500 1914 Box 410291

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 1915 Box 409901

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. Text only to Mailbox No: 472992

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SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414919

HILLY my name is Zara. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build. I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with gosh who enjoys going out. Text only to Mailbox No: 4362903

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WIDOWER 72, genuine, seeking easy going female, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

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MALE, 67, smoker, solvent, OHAC, seeking feminine, voluptuous, woman, 60-65 for days out, weekends away, holidays and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417043

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McDonald wants Wolves to find extra push to go up

KEVIN McDONALD is urging Wolves to find an extra 10 per cent to win promotion as he admitted next season is a big one for the club.

Wolves finished seventh after being squeezed out of the top six on goal difference on the final day by Ipswich, their total of 78 points the highest at Championship level to miss the play-offs.

Boss Kenny Jackett is determined to lead Wolves into the Premier League and McDonald, who was the club's only ever present in 2014-15, is convinced further improvement is within their capabilities.

"We know we can improve that extra 10 per cent and who knows where that could take us?" said the Scottish playmaker.

"It will be a hard league again but, with everything in that dressing room, we'll give it a good shot. "We've come a long way and next season is a big year for us. This season has to be used as a motivation."

McDonald believes Wolves should be proud of how far they have come after being in League One when Jackett took over in June 2013. "When you look at where the club was two years ago, and to think we've finished seventh and missed out on the play-offs on goal difference, we'd have been more than happy with that," he said.

"We have to be proud of the work we've put in over the last couple of seasons."

McDonald believes Wolves will be better equipped to challenge next time after adjusting to the second tier. "We showed we can adapt our game," he said...

Big signing is way forward, says skipper

CAPTAIN Darren Fletcher believes a big signing this summer can help lift Albion to the next level.

The skipper has given his backing to boss Tony Pulis' summer shake-up, which began in earnest after Sunday's final game of the season with the release of Youssouf Mulumbu, Chris Baird and Jason Davidson.

With more comings-and-goings certain, Fletcher is confident the Baggies' head coach can find the quality needed to improve the team - claiming a big signing can lift the whole club.

"I experienced it at Manchester United and a big signing lifts everyone," said the 31-year-old. "You have someone new to impress and all those little factors benefit a club. "You don't want to stand still."

Chess club hands out awards

STOURBRIDGE chess club held their AGM recently and handed out several awards to club members.

The President's Cup, awarded for services to the club, was presented to Dave Scriven for the 10th consecutive year.

The Denis Fernihough Trophy, awarded for most improved player, was presented to Sam Bradley.

And the Sydney Willets Trophy, awarded to the best club player, was presented to Nick Arkell.

The year has been a good season for the club with us fielding more teams than we have done in recent years. Our new team in Birmingham Division 5 finished second (just missing out on the title by the narrowest of margins) and will be promoted to Division

4. Stourbridge won the 10th Humphreys Trophy with a narrow victory over neighbours Halesowen. This is organised by the Wolverhampton league for players graded under 130.

This season we were also able to field a team made up almost entirely of junior players and are the only Midlands club with a grand master playing regularly.

To celebrate these achievements the club's annual dinner will be held at Vesuvio's on June 24.

With the chess season now at an end, Stourbridge chess club are holding their usual program of summer activities which are open to both existing and prospective club members.

The annual post-season friendly Tony Evers match against Halesowen will be held on July 8th at the Stourbridge Institute.

Stourbridge chess club's summer tournament starts on June 17. It is a five round tournament using the Swiss pairing system. This means that everyone has the opportunity to play in all five rounds and will be paired against an opponent with the same score.

The second round of the tournament will be held on 1st July with the remaining rounds taking place once a fortnight. This is a great opportunity for any prospective members to come along and join in.

Contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk.

The gloom stays over Stourbridge

Stourbridge 1st XI 203-8 (50 overs) Shifnal 1st XI 206-2 (40 overs)

Shifnal Win

THE gloom continued at the Memorial Ground as Stourbridge 1st XI lost their fifth match to Shifnal 1st XI.

Their opponents came to the match placed mid-table in division two of the Birmingham and District Premiere league.

Stour find themselves in the bottom two in the same division which is a reversal of fortunes since Stour was promoted in 2012 from the third division.

Home skipper Matt Bradley won the toss and took the bold decision to bat first.

Openers Alex Bingham and Steve Game made a slow start scoring 20 off the first 10 overs.

The cautionary start paid off as the pair moved the score on to 68 when Game was bowled by Iain Mills for 33 in the 17th over. Promoted to number three spot left hander Andy Alexander skied a bouncer from Jonathan Mountford was out first ball.

The budding partnership was ended by the spinner Mohamed Ayub getting Richard Bradley caught for 17 in the 32nd over.

Stour three down for 119 lost further three wickets with the score in the 130s that of Alex Bingham for 60, Matt Bradley for two and James Wood bowled for a duck with 12 overs still to bat.

Bingham's knock was his best of the season so far off 129 balls that included six fours batttered for 158 minutes. Bradley was once again judged to be in front LBW. The opposition threatened to skittle Stour out well below a par total.

The lower order put on 68 valuable runs off the remaining overs.

Barnards Green 2nd XI 274-6 (50 overs) Stourbridge 2nd XI 276-5 (49 overs)

(Stourbridge win)

Stourbridge 2nd XI notched up their first win of the season against Barnards Green helping to lift some of the gloom at the Memorial Ground.

Batting first Barnards Green piled on the runs through opener Adam Dovey and No.3 Will Dovey. Stour did have an early break through Feraz Irfan stopping Christopher Hill for 9.

War of words as rivals prepare



Ryan Aston, left, and Jason Welborn are ready to go head to head at the Civic Hall next month

THE war of words has gathered pace as Black Country rivals Jason Welborn and Ryan Aston prepare to go toe-to-toe for the Midlands light middleweight title next month.

Title holder Welborn reckons he will capitalise on a 'confidence crisis' come fight night - but Aston argues it's his brain that will win the day.

They will settle the score over

10 rounds in the main event at Wolverhampton's Rubicon Casino earlier this month, and vowed 'he won't beat me'.

Aston's relative silence that day has only made Welborn believe his rival is feeling the pressure, with the stakes high for both men.

The title holder said: "He's never been in with a champion before and he's never made the championship weight before either."

There's been bad blood between the pair since last year, the champion from Rowley Regis irked by comments from Aston that 'he needs me more than I need him'.

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Bradshaw is looking for call-up for Wales

WALSALL striker Tom Bradshaw is hopeful of earning a first senior Wales call-up after admitting: "I've done all I can".

The Saddlers top scorer is waiting to discover if he has forced his way into Dragons boss Chris Coleman's plans, ahead of Tuesday's squad announcement for next month's Euro 2016 qualifier with Belgium.

Bradshaw, who netted 20 goals in his first season at the Banks's despite missing a chunk of the campaign with chronic hamstring trouble, thinks there is not much more he could have done to force the manager's hand. "To score 20 in 36 games is all a striker can do to push their claim," said the 22-year-old. "If Chris Coleman thinks I would be ready for the squad I'm sure he might put me in."

"If he doesn't, it is completely up to him."

Bradshaw, who grew up in Gwynedd and has been capped at under-19 and under-21 level, was twice on standby for the Wales squad during the past season, only for any chance of a call-up to be ended by injury. He added: "I am a believer if it is meant to happen, it is meant to happen. You can't get hung up on these things. "They happen in football and I think I have bounced back, when I have come back from injury I have scored goals."

"I think I am in as good a form now as when I was on standby, so why not?"

Bradshaw has a year left to run on his current deal with the Saddlers and is in talks to extend it. In the meantime, he is eager for the team to show more consistency."

Youngsters win final in extra time

A DRAMATIC penalty shootout victory saw Wolves Under-19s end the season in style by lifting the Bitzer Cup.

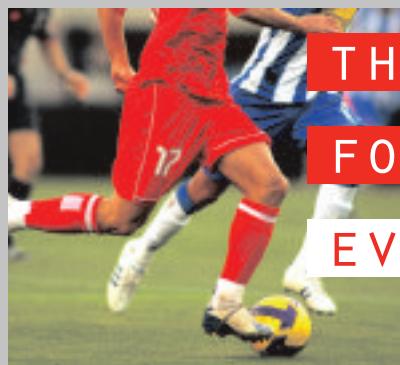
The Wolves youngsters defeated Mexican outfit Chivas Guadalajara 5-4 on spot-kicks in Germany, keeper Harry Burgoyne ending up the hero with a crucial save.

Jordan Graham, who was named player of the tournament, had earlier been on target as the game finished 1-1.

Wolves had reached the final without conceding, beating Red Star Belgrade 2-0 in the semi-finals thanks to a brace from Connor Ronan, Graham assisting in both. They overcame VfB Stuttgart and FC Zurich to top their group.

Wolves Under-15s were champions in Germany beating Essen in the final.

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Joint bosses now in place for Tividale

PHIL MALE and Ross Thorpe have been announced as the new joint-managers of Evo-Stik First Division South side Tividale.

The duo replace Ian Long, who left to join Alvechurch after last week's JW Hunt Cup victory over Stone Old Al leyman at Molineux.

Male, aged 36, retired as a player at the end of the 2014/15 campaign at Sutton Coldfield Town and made several appearances for Tividale under Dean Whitehouse in the West Midlands League.

Thorpe, 33, saw his playing days ended at the age of 17 due to injury and has managed Alvechurch and Colehill Town having become a qualified coach at the tender age of 21. He has also been assistant manager at Sutton Coldfield Town.

Tividale football general manager Leon Murray said: "I'm pleased we've reached the conclusion of our managerial search because we need to start preparing for the 2015/16 season and pre-season isn't too far away now."

"Phil and Ross have experience of the Evo-Stik Division One South and that was a key ingredient during this process."

"We've a lot of hard work to get through in the next few weeks, particularly on the playing side to ensure we have a competitive side for the start of the season."

Dale's head of communications Steven Beech added: "I'm delighted to welcome both Phil and Ross to the club. We initially held discussions with them on Wednesday and we were very impressed with what they had to say."

"Phil requires no introduction having played here, and he's a local lad, too. He's extremely popular in these parts and Phil's influence will be of paramount importance."

Edwards hoping to get a place in the Welsh squad

WOLVES midfielder Dave Edwards is hoping to parade his talents among a galaxy of world stars – to help save his place at Molineux.

The 29-year-old is keeping his fingers crossed he is included in Chris Coleman's Wales squad for the Euro 2016 Group B qualifier against Belgium on Friday, June 12, at Cardiff City Stadium.

Edwards is itching to join Gareth Bale and Co to face Chelsea playmaker Eden Hazard, Manchester United midfielder Marouane Fellaini, Villa striker Christian Benteke and Everton striker Romelu Lukaku. Chelsea keeper Thibaut Courtois, Toby Alderweireld from Southampton and Tottenham trio Jan Vertonghen, Nacer Chadli and Moussa Dembélé could also be involved.

And he is hoping to impress, following the £275,000 signing of Portsmouth's Jed Wallace, who like Edwards is an attacking midfielder.

"Hopefully I will be in the squad that's announced tomorrow," said Edwards. "I've been keeping myself ticking over fitness-wise in preparation. I'm hoping I've done enough to earn a call-up."

Villa have to up game for final

Page 39

Rivals ready to rumble in ring

Page 39



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Baggies punished but forgiven by fans

Arsenal 4 Albion 1

THE volume at the Emirates Stadium told Albion's players that they were forgiven.

Tony Pulis' side were punished severely for failing to turn up for the final game of the season.

Theo Walcott grabbed a hat-trick before the break as Arsene Wenger's men turned on the style a week before facing Villa in the FA Cup final.

And Jack Wilshere capped a classy display with a brilliant goal to give the hosts a 4-0 half-time lead that could have been doubled had they converted all of their chances.

The Gunners eased off after the break, al-

Football

though Gareth McAuley's headed consolation never looked likely to trigger a Baggies comeback on a day when his side were heavily beaten.

It was not a day for recriminations, though, with 2,500 travelling supporters applauding their side from the field just six days after a very different display had earned a 3-0 win over champions Chelsea.

It was a day to wipe from the memory quickly but one which, in the greater scheme of things, did not matter one iota.

McAuley pulled a goal back on 57 minutes..

BOSS HACKETT GRABS CHILTON

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett has completed his first signing of what promises to be a busy summer.

He has captured Lee Chilton from Leamington.

The exciting 28-year old attacking midfielder or wide player has an eye for goal.

He joined Leamington during the latter part of the 2011/12 season after featuring for Halesowen Town and Tividale earlier in that particular campaign and he went on to play a significant role in the Brakes' Southern League Premier Division title success of 2012/13 and has since had two full seasons playing in the Conference North.

'Chilly' previously had a brief stint with the Glassboys in the summer of 2009, scoring for the club in a pre-season defeat at Rushall, however he left soon afterwards without playing a competitive game for Stourbridge and subsequently returned to Willenhall Town.

Prior to that he had won the Midland Alliance Player of the Year award with Alvechurch for the 2007/08 season.

He has also seen service with AFC Telford, Stafford Rangers and Black Country Rangers.

Stourbridge FC have also announced their pre-season line-up has been confirmed, and will include a home game against near neighbours Lye Town as well as the revamped Worsc Senior Cup, Friday, June 12, at Cardiff City Stadium.

However, there is uncertainty, with some fixtures to be confirmed depending on progress in the Worcestershire Senior Cup with three scenario's possible for July 25 depending on the club's progress or otherwise in the WSC competition.

The full schedule is: Saturday July 11 – AFC Bridgnorth (A). 3pm kick-off; Tuesday July 14 – Bewdley Town (A). Kick-off TBC Saturday July 18 – Redditch United (A - WSC QF). 3pm kick-off; Tuesday July 21 – Kidderminster Harriers (A - WSC SF- PROV). 7.45pm KO. If Stourbridge lose to Redditch United in the WSC quarter-final, there will be no fixture on this date. Saturday July 25 – Worcestershire Senior Cup Final or WSC Third Place Play-off. 3pm (Final is at Aggborough), or Saturday July 25 – Alvechurch (A). 3pm. (NB. This game will only take place if Stourbridge lose to Redditch United in the WSC Quarter-Final the previous Saturday). Tuesday July 28 – Stafford Rangers (H) 7.45pm KO. Saturday August 1 – Brackley Town (A). 3pm KO. Tuesday August 4 – Lye Town (H). 7.30pm KO. Saturday August 8 – Chasetown (A). 3pm KO. The Evo-stik League gets underway on Saturday, August 15.

Mulumbu wants to face Albion



Mulumbu holds off Jonas Gutierrez during his final outing for Albion – at Newcastle this month

RELEASED Albion midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu wants to make a quick return to The Hawthorns next season – with the opposition.

The 28-year-old, who has spent six seasons with the Baggies, is hopeful of joining another Premier League side for the 2015/16 campaign.

Mulumbu became a firm fans' favourite during his time in the Midlands, making 211 appearances and scoring 15 goals.

He said: "Now I have a new challenge. I don't know where I'm going but I hope to stay in the UK. I wish West Bromwich Albion all the best. I hope to play against them next season, in my house, against my fans."

Mulumbu, who began his career at Paris St

Germain, was released on Sunday as part of a summer shake-up by manager Tony Pulis.

But the player insists he will always have a soft spot for the club.

He said: "This club is more special to me than Paris. PSG was the academy for me, where I became a professional."

"But this club gave me everything, they gave me the opportunity to play at the highest level. People know me now because I played for West Bromwich. I thank them for that."

"I came here, in my opinion, as a good player but now I leave as a good Premier League player."

"And I will never forget my time here."

Injury blow for Villa in Cup run-up

VILLA'S FA Cup final plans have been thrown into chaos after keeper Shay Given was injured and debutant Jed Steer is cup-tied.

Given, aged 39, suffered a groin problem in training and missed the 1-0 defeat to Burnley as 22-year-old Steer made his Premier League bow, with second choice Brad Guzan on the bench.

Villa would have a massive headache if anything happens to Guzan as Steer is cup-tied having played four ties on loan at Yeovil earlier in the competition.

Given is now being assessed on a daily basis in the countdown to Saturday's Wembley final against Arsenal.

Manager Tim Sherwood said: "Shay injured himself in training and he's doubtful for the final with a groin problem."

"I've no idea of his chances at the moment – we're assessing him every day."

"But I wouldn't have played him yesterday anyway."

"You don't get many opportunities to look at young goalkeepers and you can only test them and really assess them on this stage and I thought he did all right. I'm not ruling him out yet but it's a concern."

Villa's problems aren't confined to the goalkeeping department, with Kieran Richardson missing the game with a calf injury which meant winger Charles N'Zogbia played at left-back.

"Kieran's doubtful with a calf problem and Carlos Gil is also injured," said Sherwood. "I had to play Charles N'Zogbia at left-back because we haven't got a fit left-back at the moment."

After the game, captain Fabian Delph received his player-of-the-season trophy for the second year in a row and Jack Grealish named young player of the season. Gil's effort against Bournemouth in the FA Cup was goal of the season.

Team will crank it up, says Spink

NIGEL SPINK has tipped Villa to turn it on in the FA Cup final after claiming they probably took things easy against Burnley.

Villa go into Saturday's showdown against Arsenal as huge underdogs.

Preparations for Tim Sherwood's side haven't gone as smoothly as they would have wanted.

But legend Spink, who made 460 appearances in goal for Villa, is convinced they will show a massive improvement in the final.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they had got one eye on the final because they didn't want to get injured," said Spink.

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